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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES

SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

7 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CLXXXII.

OMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM MONDAY, THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY
OF AUGUST, 1907, TO WEDNESDAY, THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF
AUGUST, 1907; ALSO THE GENERAL INDEX FOR THE SESSION
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THE SESSIONAL RETURNS AND OTHER APPENDICES.

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CHRONOLOGY OF "THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES."

THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols. : Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal ; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621 ; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols. ; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols. : Almon's Debates, 24 vols. ; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols. ; The Hardwicke Papers ; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

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Amendment moved—

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The Marquess of Salisbury 4

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

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Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Lord Tweedmouth 4

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 16, to leave out from the word 'annulled' to the word 'or' in line 17 and in line 21 to leave out from the word 'annulled' to the word 'or' in line 22."—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

The Duke of Northumberland 5

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 5

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 25, after the word 'contingent,' to add the words 'or presumptive.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Lord Tweedmouth 6

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord Courtney of Pewith 6

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 4."—(*Lord Courtney of Penwith.*)

Lord Tweedmouth 8

On Question, Amendment negatived.

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Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

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Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now' in order to insert, at the end of the Motion, the words 'this day three months.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

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The Duke of Northumberland 15
The Lord Chancellor (Lord Loreburn) 18
The Marquess of Salisbury 19
Viscount Halifax 19
Lord Stanmore 21

On Question, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 98; Not-Contents, 54.

Bill read 3ª accordingly, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

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Council of India Bill [Third Reading].—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 23

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^a."—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

On Question, Bill read 3^a and passed.

Land Value (Scotland) Bill [Second Reading].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Hamilton of Dalzell 23

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell.*)

Lord Robertson 30

Amendment moved—

> "To leave out all the words after 'that,' in order to add 'this House declines to proceed with a measure which would have no operative effect, except to cause fruitless expense and to unsettle and prejudice important questions as to taxation and rating, which it makes no attempt to solve.'"—(*Lord Robertson.*)

The First Lord of the Admiralty (*Lord Tweedmouth*) 37
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 41
The Earl of Mar and Kellie 45
Lord Saltoun 52
Earl Cawdor 61
The Lord Chancellor (*Lord Loreburn*) 68
The Marquess of Lansdowne 74
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 80

On Question, whether the word "now" should stand part of the Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 31; Not-Contents, 118.

Proposed words inserted, and Resolution agreed to.

Irish Land (No.2) Bill [Second Reading].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Denman 85

Moved, "That the Bill be read 2^a."—(*Lord Denman.*)

Lord Ashbourne 87

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly; then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith; House in Committee accordingly.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 2, line 18, to omit the word 'six' and to insert the word 'twelve.'"—(*Lord Ashbourne.*)

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On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived; Amendment reported; Bill read 3ª, with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Patents and Designs Bill.—Amendments reported (according to Order).

The Lord Chancellor 89

Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX, having been suspended) Bill read 3ª and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Patents and Designs (Consolidation) Bill.—Amendments reported (according to Order).

The Marquess of Salisbury 89
The Lord Chancellor 90

Amendments moved *en bloc*, and agreed to.

Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Cabs and State Carriages (London) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1:—

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 14, to leave out the word 'but,' and to insert the words 'and that.'"—(*Lord Granard.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2:—

The Duke of Northumberland 91

Amendment moved—

"In pages 1 and 2, to leave out Clause 2."—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

Lord Stalbridge 94
The Lord Steward (Earl Beauchamp) 97
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 102
Lord Stalbridge 104

On Question, whether the clause should stand part of the Bill, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 18; Non-contents, 87.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Earl Beauchamp 105

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Amendment moved—

"After Clause 3, to insert the following new clause :—' The Commissioner of Metropolitan Police, and as respects the City of London the Commissioner of City Police, may give directions with respect to the stopping places for stage carriages in London, and if the driver or conductor of any stage carriage acts in contravention of any direction so given, he shall be liable in respect of each offence on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding 40s.' "—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived; then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Amendments reported: Bill read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Employers' Liability (Insurance Companies) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order).

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 27, after the word ' societies ' to insert the following new subsection :—' (4) In the application of this Act to Scotland the expression ' county court ' means sheriff court.' "—(*Lord Granard.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Amendment reported: Bill read 3ª with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons 105

Qualification of Women (County and Town Councils) (Scotland) Bill.—Commons Amendments considered.

Lord Hamilton of Dalzell 106

On Question, Commons Amendments agreed to.

Notification of Births Bill.—Debate on the Motion for the Second Reading resumed (according to Order), after further short debate, Bill read 2ª, then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith: House in Committee accordingly.

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 7, at the end of the line after (1897) to add the words ' Subsection (4) of Section 2 shall not apply.' "—(*Lord Allendale.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

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Remaining clauses agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived; Amendment reported; Bill read 3^a with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons 107

Whale Fisheries (Scotland) Bill [SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for Second Reading read.

Lord Hamilton of Dalzell 107

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Read 2^a accordingly. Committees negatived; then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3^a, and passed.

Sheriff Courts (Scotland Bill) [SECOND READING.]—Order of the Day for Second Reading read.

Lord Hamilton of Dalzell 108

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 109

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly. Committees negatived; then (Standing Order XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill read 3^a, and passed.

Lights on Vehicles Bill.—Commons Amendments to Lords Amendments considered.

The Earl of Donoughmore 111

Moved, "That this House doth agree with the Commons in the said Amendments."—(*Earl of Donoughmore.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Small Holdings and Allotments Bill.—Returned from the Commons with several of the Amendments agreed to; several others agreed to with Amendments, several others disagreed to, but Amendments made in lieu thereof, and several others disagreed to with reasons for such disagreement: The said Amendments and reasons to be printed, and to be considered To-morrow. (No. 215) 111

Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill.—Returned from the Commons with several of the further Amendments made by the Lords agreed to: With one of the Amendments to which the Lords have disagreed not insisted on: With one of the Lords Amendments to the Commons Amendments agreed to, with an Amendment: With one of the Lords Amendments disagreed to, but Amendments made in lieu thereof and with a consequential Amendment to the Bill: With certain other of the Lords Amendments disagreed to, and certain Amendments to which the Lords have disagreed insisted on, with reasons for such disagreement. The said Amendments and reasons to be printed, and to be considered To-morrow. (No. 216) 111

Public Health Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with certain Amendments agreed to, and certain Amendments agreed to with Amendments. The said Amendments to be printed and to be considered To-morrow. [No. 217] 112

House adjourned at a quarter past Twelve o'clock a.m., till half-past Two o'clock p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 26TH AUGUST, 1907

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PETITIONS.

Weekly Rest-Day Bill.—Petition from Willesden and other places, in favour; to lie upon the Table 112

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Railways in British Protectorates, Leased Territories, and Colonies (other than the Transvaal and Orange River Colony).—Return [presented 23rd August] to be printed. [No. 336] 112

Horse-breeding (Royal Commission).—Copy presented, of Eleventh Report of the Royal Commission on Horse-Breeding [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 112

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.—Copy presented, of Treasury Warrant, dated 21st August, 1907, modifying for the purposes of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, the warrant made under Section 1 of the Superannuation Act, 1887, relative to the award of Compensation for Injury [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 112

Sugar Convention.—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 19th August; *Sir Gilbert Parker*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 337] .. 113

Strikes and Lock-outs.—Copy presented, of Report on Strikes and Lock-out of 1906, and on Conciliation and Arbitration Boards [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 113

Board of Trade (Labour Department) (Changes in Wages, etc.).—Copy presented, of Report on changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom in 1906, with comparative Statistics for 1897–1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 113

Gas and Water Orders.—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, during the session of 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 113

Gas Undertakings.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th May; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 338] .. 113

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GAS UNDERTAKINGS (LOCAL AUTHORITIES).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th May; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 339] 113

CONCILIATION ACT, 1896 (TRADE DISPUTES).—Copy presented, of Sixth Report by the Board of Trade of proceedings under the Conciliation Act, 1896 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 340] 113

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3907 and 3908 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 113

HOUSE-LETTING (SCOTLAND) (DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE).—Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary for Scotland of the Departmental Committee on House-Letting in Scotland. Volume I. Report [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 114

ESTABLISHED CHURCH (SCOTLAND) (COMMUNICANTS). — Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 18th December, 1906; *Mr. McCallum*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 341] 114

ECCLESIASTICAL EXPENDITURE (SCOTLAND). — Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 18th December, 1906; *Mr. McCallum*]; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 342] 114

ESTABLISHED CHURCH (SCOTLAND) (ELECTION OF MINISTERS).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th March; *Mr. McCallum*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 343] 114

DEER FORESTS (SCOTLAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 27th March; *Mr. Molteno*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 344] 114

TREATMENT OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS (SCOTLAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 1st May; *Mr. Gulland*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 345] 114

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st August; *Mr. Sinclair*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 346] 114

CANALS AND WATERWAYS (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Copy presented, of Second Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report on the Canals and Inland Navigations of the United Kingdom, Vol. I. Report; Vol. II. Minutes of Evidence and Appendices (Ireland); Vol. III. Minutes of Evidence and Appendices (England and Scotland); Vol. IV. Returns [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 114

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copies presented, of Orders made by the Metropolitan Borough of Hackney, the Borough of Widnes, and Barking Town Urban District Council, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 115

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BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Regulations for the training of Teachers of Domestic Subjects, 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 115

RESIDENT MAGISTRATES (IRELAND). — Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 19th August; *Mr. MacVeagh*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 347] 115

LOANS CONTRACTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.—Return ordered, showing the following particulars with respect to the areas of Municipal Corporations, District Councils, Joint Boards, or Joint Committees, or other Local Authorities in England or Wales which have contracted Loans on the security of any rate or rates, that is to say: (*a*) area of District; (*b*) population according to the last Census; (*c*) rateable and assessable value according to the last valuation list; (*d*) rates made in the District during the last preceding financial year; (*e*) the sum of the balances of outstanding Loans contracted by the Local Authority; and (*f*) the amount of the outstanding Loans to which the limitation of Section 234 of the Public Health Act, 1875, applies."—(*Mr. H. W. Forster*) 115

PUBLIC BILLS (ALLOCATION OF TIME).—Return ordered, "showing, with reference to each of the following Bills, viz., Education (England and Wales) Bill (1906), Plural Voting Bill (1906), Evicted Tenants Bill (1907), Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill (1907), the number of clauses disposed of without discussion (*a*) in Committee, and (*b*) on Report, under the Order of the House for Allocation of Time on the Bill."—(*Mr. Jowett*) 115

MERCHANT SHIPPING, 1906.—Copy ordered, "of Tables showing the progress of Merchant Shipping in the United Kingdom and the principal Maritime Countries."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George*) 115

COAL TABLES, 1906.—Copy ordered, "of Statistical Tables relating to the production, consumption, and imports and exports of coal in the British Empire and the principal foreign countries in each year from 1885 to 1906, as far as the particulars can be stated; together with statements showing the production of lignite and petroleum in the principal producing countries for a series of years (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 231, of Session 1906)."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George*) 116

IRON AND STEEL, 1906.—Copy ordered, "of Memorandum and Statistical Tables showing the production and consumption of Iron Ore and Pig Iron and the production of Steel in the United Kingdom and the principal Foreign Countries in recent years, and the Imports and Exports of certain classes of Iron and Steel Manufactures (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 322, of Session 1906)."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George*) 116

EXPORTS TO CHINA AND SOUTH AMERICA.—Return ordered, "showing, so far as can be stated (1) the Exports to China, inclusive of Hong Kong, from the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States for the years 1887 to 1906, and the average for each of the quinquennial periods ending 1891, 1896, 1901, and 1906, showing increase in value and percentage between the averages for the last and each earlier period; (2) a similar Return for the same periods showing Exports to Argentina from the same countries; and (3) a similar Return showing Exports from the same countries to the whole of South America (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 131, of Session 1906)."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George*) 116

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1894 (PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS, 1907).—Return ordered, "of particulars respecting the Election of Parish Councils in Scotland in the year 1907 in the following form:—

County.	Names of Parishes and Parish Wards, distinguishing Parishes and Wards in a Burgh or Police Burgh.			Number of Electors in Parish or Parish Ward.			Number of Electors who voted.			Percentage of Electors who voted to the number of Electors on Register.		
	Name of Parish.	Name of Parish Ward.	Name of Burgh or Police Burgh in which Parish Wards are situated.	County Council Register.	Town Council Register.	Parish Council Register.	County Council Election.	Town Council Election.	Parish Council Election.	County Council Election.	Town Council Election.	Parish Council Election.

—(*Mr. Sinclair.*)

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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to certain of the Amendments made by this House to the Amendments made by the Lords to the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill; that they do not insist on certain of their Amendments to which this House has disagreed; that they do not insist on certain other of their Amendments but propose Amendments in lieu thereof, to which they desire the concurrence of this House, and insist on certain other of their Amendments to which this House has disagreed and for which insistence they assign their reasons. That they have agreed to certain of the Amendments made by this House to the Bill without Amendment; to one other of the Amendments with an Amendment, to which they desire the concurrence of this House; and have disagreed to certain other of the Amendments, for which disagreement they assign their reasons.

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That they have agreed to :—Sea Fisheries (Scotland) (Application of Penalties) Bill; Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill; Judicature (Ireland) Bill; Inverness Royal Academy Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment; Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Bill, with an Amendment; Public Health Bill; Small Holdings and Allotments Bill, with Amendments.

Amendment to :—Qualifications of Women (County and Borough Councils) Bill [Lords].

Amendment to :—Factory and Workshops Bill [Lords]; Companies Bill [Lords]; Vaccination (Scotland) Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they request that this House will be pleased to communicate to Their Lordships copies of the Reports from the Select Committees appointed by this House in the present session on :—1. Home Work; 2. Publications; together with the Proceedings of the Committees and Minutes of Evidence.

That they have agreed to :—Council of India Bill, without Amendment; Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, with Amendments .. 180

Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill.—Lords reasons for insisting on certain of their Amendments to the Bill to which this House has disagreed and for disagreeing to certain other of the Commons Amendments, and Lords Amendment to one of the Commons Amendments, and Lords' further Amendments to the Bill to be printed. [Bill 331.] 180

Small Holdings and Allotments Bill.—Lords Amendments to be printed. [Bill 332.] 181

Pulic Health Bill.—Lords' Amendments to be printed. [Bill 333.] 181

HOME WORK; PUBLICATIONS.—Printed Copies of Reports from Select Committees to be communicated 181

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 336] 181

Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill.

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 181

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Lords reasons for insisting on certain of their Amendments to which this House has disagreed, and for disagreeing to certain other of the Commons Amendments, and Lords Amendment to one of the Commons Amendments and Lords further Amendments to the Bill be considered forthwith."—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.) 185
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 190
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 196
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland) 201

Question put, and agreed to.

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Lords reasons for insisting on certain of their Amendments to which this House has disagreed, and for disagreeing to certain other of the Commons Amendments, and Lords Amendment to one of the Commons Amendments, and Lords' further Amendments to the Bill, considered.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 1, line 8 to leave out 'of the land.'"

Lords Amendment—

"In page 1, line 9, to leave out 'the fair market value thereof' and insert the 'compensation for the loss which would be sustained by the owner being deprived thereof.'"

Disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In line 10 after 'may' insert 'subject to the provisions as to the appeal contained in this Act."

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment in page 2, line 4.

Agreed to.

On Lords' Amendment in page 2, line 15, and also in lines 16 to 21 :—

The Attorney-General for Ireland (*Mr. Cherry, Liverpool Exchange*) .. 204
Mr. Walter Long 204

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Question, "That this House doth insist on its Amendment in page 2, line 19, to substitute 'May' for 'January,'" put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of Subsection (3) to insert the words 'provided that no untenanted land shall be acquired compulsorily which is in the possession or occupation of a *bonâ-fide* tenant using or cultivating the same as an ordinary farm in accordance with the proper methods of husbandry."—(*Mr. Cherry.*)

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment in page 2, lines 16 to 21.

Disagreed to.

Lords Amendments in page 3, line 3, line 11, 2nd lines 17 and 18.

Disagreed to.

The Lords agree to the Amendment made by the Commons in page 3, line 23, with the following Amendment—

> "To leave out the words 'the purchase money shall within the prescribed time,' and insert the words 'amount of the compensation shall within six months after the expiration of the time limited for the presentation of petitions.'"

Lords Amendment amended, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment in lieu of their Amendment in page 3, line 30—

> "To leave out from 'thereon' to the end of the Subsection (7) and insert new Subsections (8) and (9)."

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Commons' Amendments in page 3, line 34, and page 4, line 4, to which the Lords had disagreed—

Insisted on.

Lords Amendment in page 5, line 5.

Disagreed to.

Commons Amendments in page 5, line 6, and lines 7 and 8, to which the Lords disagreed.

Insisted on.

Lords Amendments in page 5, line 26, and line 32.

Disagreed to.

Lords Amendment to insert a new clause after Clause 6.

Agreed to.

On the Lords Amendments to Clause 13 inserting after "shall" in page 6, line 39, "from and after the passing of the Act":—

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Committee appointed to draw up reasons to be assigned to the Lords for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments, and for insisting upon certain of the Commons Amendments to which the Lords disagree.

Committee nominated of: Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; Mr. Birrell; and Mr. Solicitor-General.

Three to be the quorum.

To withdraw immediately.—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

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Smal Holdings and Allotments Bill.

The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale) 207

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Lords' Amendments to the Small Holdings and Allotments Bill be considered forthwith."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Mr. Chaplin (Surrey, Wimbledon) 209
Mr. Masterman (West Ham, N.) 210
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 211
Mr. Jesse Collings (Birmingham, Bordesley) 212
Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) 213

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 4, line 4, agreed to.

Lords Amendment in page 4, line 7, to leave out Subsection (2).

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 214

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

Mr. Chaplin 214
Mr. Harcourt 216

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Consequential Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "At the end of the words so restored to the Bill to insert the words 'But this proviso shall not apply in the case of any scheme which the county council have declined to carry out on the ground that the same may result in a loss'."—(*Mr. Chaplin.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston) 217
Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) 217
Mr. Wedgewood (Newcastle-under-Lyme) 217
Mr. A. J. Balfour 218
The Solicitor-General (Sir W. Robson, South Shields) 220
Viscount Morpeth (Birmingham, S.) 221
Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye) 220

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 44 ; Noes, 145. (Division List No. 459.)

Mr. Harcourt 225

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Lords Amendment—

"In page 7, line 32, after the word 'to' to insert the words 'purchase or.'"

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 225

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

Mr. Chaplin 226
Mr. Winfrey (*Norfolk, S.W.*) 228
Mr. Jesse Collings 228
Mr. Napier (*Kent, Faversham*) 230
Sir Randal Cremer (*Shoreditch, Haggerston*) 231
Mr. Verney (*Buckinghamshire, N.*) 232
Mr. Gretton (*Rutland*) 233
Mr. Lupton (*Lincolnshire, Sleaford*) 234

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 121 ; Noes, 30. (Division List No. 460.)

Lords Amendment—

"In page 4, line 40, after the word 'land' to insert: (3) No land shall be acquired by a county council without their county except with the consent of the council of the county in which such land is situate, provided that any county council aggrieved by a refusal to give such consent may appeal to the Board, and the Board shall have power finally to determine all questions arising under this subsection and to settle the terms of arrangement (if any) between the county councils of their respective counties.'"

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 235

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

Mr. Chaplin 235
Viscount Morpeth 236
Sir A. Acland-Hood (*Somersetshire, Wellington*) 237

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 5, line 2, after the words 'for' to insert the words 'selling or,' and after the word 'and' to insert the words 'sold or.'"

Read a second time.

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Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 5, line 19, after the word 'constituted' to insert the words 'under rules approved by the Board.'"

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 237

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 5, line 33, after the word 'council,' to insert the words 'as agricultural holdings.'"

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 238

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 6, to leave out Clause 13."

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 238

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 7, line 3, after the word 'district' to insert the words 'as agents for the county council.'"

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 238

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 10, lines 16 to 20, to leave out Subsection (2) and to insert '(2) The powers of improving and adapting land for allotments under the Allotments Act shall include power to erect or permit to be erected any stable, cowhouse, or barn.'"

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 239

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

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Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 11, line 20, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In line 20, after the word 'section' to insert the words 'and have refused to comply with a representation made by the council of the urban district or parish for the compulsory acquisition of land for allotments.'"

Read a second time.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 12, line 16, to leave out from the word 'shall' to the end of line 19, and to insert the words 'empower the council to acquire the land in accordance with the provisions of this Act.'"

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 239

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

Mr. Chaplin 240
Sir W. Robson 241
Mr. Cave 242

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 130; Noes, 28. (Division List No. 461.)

Amendment—

"In page 12, line 22, after the word 'acquired' to insert the words 'and every such order shall, if so required by the owner of the land to be acquired, provide for the creation of such new easements as are reasonably necessary to secure the continued use and enjoyment by such owner and his tenants of all means of access, drainage, water supply, and other similar conveniences theretofore used or enjoyed by them over the land to be acquired; provided that, notwithstanding anything contained in this subsection, no new easement created by or in pursuance of such order over land hired by a council shall continue beyond the determination of such hiring.'"

Read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 15, lines 24 and 25, to leave out the words 'authorised by an order under this Act to be.'"

Read a second time.

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Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 15, lines 25 and 26, to leave out the words 'for the purposes of small holdings or allotments' and to insert the words 'under this Act.'"

Read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords Amendment, to leave out the words 'for the purposes of small holdings or allotments.'"—(*Sir W. Robson.*)

Motion agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the House disagree with the Lords Amendment to insert 'under this Act.'"—(*Sir W. Robson.*)

Motion agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 15, line 27, to leave out the words 'or other land,' and to insert the words 'home farm or is otherwise.'"

Read a second time.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'home farm.'"—(*Mr Harcourt.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'home farm' stand part of the Lords Amendment.

Mr. Harcourt 246

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 35; Noes, 136. (Division List No. 462.)

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Consequential Amendment made.

A consequential Amendment made to the Bill.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 15, line 28, after the word 'dwelling-house' to insert the words 'or which is woodland not wholly surrounded by land acquired by a council under this Act.'"

Read a second time, and amended, by inserting after the first word "by" the words "or adjacent to."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 15, line 31, after the word 'undertaking' to insert the words 'or includes the site of any ancient monument or place of historic or archæological interest,'" the next Amendment.

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 248

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 16, line 4, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 16, line 4, to leave out from the word 'holding' to the end of the subsection and to insert the words 'which either does not exceed fifty acres, or, if exceeding fifty acres, is of an annual value for the purposes of income-tax not exceeding £50, nor any part of such holding shall be acquired compulsorily under this Act.'"

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 249

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Mr. Chaplin 250
Mr. Hicks Beach 250

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 134 ; Noes, 37. (Division List No. 463.)

Amendments—

"In page 16, line 4, to leave out from the word 'holding' to the end of the subsection, and to insert the words 'which either does not exceed fifty acres, or, if exceeding fifty acres, is of an annual value for the purposes of income-tax not exceeding fifty pounds, nor any part of such holding shall be acquired compulsorily under this Act.'"

"In page 16, line 8, after the word 'shall' to insert the words 'subject to the restriction by this Act imposed.'"

Read a second time and agreed to.

Lords Amendments—

"In page 16, line 36, after the word 'purposes' to insert the words 'or for the making of roads, reservoirs, railways, or other similar works necessary for the improvement and development of the estate.'"

Read a second time.

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Mr. Harcourt 253

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment made to the Bill instead of the last Lords Amendment disagreed to, by inserting in line 36 after the word " purposes," the words " or for roads necessary therefor."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Lords Amendment—

" In page 17, at the end of Clause 33, to insert the words ' Where the land has been hired compulsorily by the Commissioners acting in default of a county council, any question as to the right of the landlord to resume possession of the land or any part thereof under this section shall be determined by an arbitrator appointed by the Lord Chief Justice of England.' "

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

" In page 18, lines 13 and 14, to leave out Subsection (4)."

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 253

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Amendment proposed—

" In page 19, at the end of Clause 36, to insert the words ' (3) Where any receipts or payments of money under this Act are entrusted by the county council to the Small Holdings and Allotments Committee, or any sub-committee thereof, the accounts of those receipts and payments shall be accounts of the county council, and made up and audited accordingly.' "

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

" In page 19, line 28, to leave out the words ' any society.' "

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 254

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 20, line 39, agreed.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 20, line 39, after the word 'appointed' to insert the words 'in default of agreement between the parties.'"

Read a second time.

Mr. Chaplin 255
Mr. Hicks Beach 255
Mr. George Faber (*York*) 256

Question put, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

The House divided :—Ayes, 140; Noes, 38. (Division List No. 464.)

Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment, in page 23, line 12, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 23, line 12, after the word 'arbitrator' to insert the words 'agreed upon between the parties or in default of agreement.'"

Read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Sir W. Robson 257
Mr. Chaplin 258
Mr. Rawlinson 259
Mr. Hicks Beach 259
Mr. J. Ward 260
Mr. Gretton 261

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 140; Noes, 36. (Division List No. 465.)

Lords Amendment—

"In page 23, line 32, to leave out the words 'by the Board' and to insert the words 'under this schedule.'"

Read a second time, and disagreed to.

An Amendment made to the Bill, instead of the last Lords Amendment disagreed to "in page 23, line 32, by leaving out the words 'an arbitrator appointed by the Board,' and inserting the words 'the arbitrator'"—(*Mr. Harcourt*)—instead thereof.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 23, line 33, to leave out from the word 'experience' to the word 'but' in line 36."

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Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 263

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule 1, page 24, after line 2, to insert the following paragraph, 'The arbitrator in assessing compensation to be paid for land to be compulsorily acquired shall take into consideration the rent (if any) at which the land has been last let, and the annual value at which the land is assessed for the purposes of income-tax and rating.' "

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In lines 35 and 36, to leave out the words 'unless otherwise agreed to keep the buildings in repair and.' "

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 24, line 40, after the word 'aforesaid' to insert the words 'and (unless otherwise agreed) to pay all taxes, rates, and charges usually borne by tenants to insure the buildings, and to keep the buildings and premises demised in repair, and shall, if the landlord has given notice in the prescribed manner that he so desires, provide for the reservation to him, and persons authorised by him, of exclusive rights of fishing and sporting over the land.' "

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 264

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Amendments made to the Bill—

"Instead of the last Lords Amendment disagreed to, by inserting in page 24, line 40, after the word 'aforesaid,' to insert the words 'and unless otherwise agreed to keep the buildings and premises demised in repair,' and by inserting in page 25, line 21, after the word 'severance' to insert the words 'the terms and conditions of hiring including any reservation of sporting or fishing rights.' "—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Lords Amendment—

"In page 24, line 42, to leave out the words 'that it can be so broken without depreciating the value of the land or.' "

Read a second time.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

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Lords Amendment—

"In page 25, line 2, after the word 'not' to insert the words 'except with the consent of the landlord,' and after the word 'to' to insert the words 'fell or cut timber or trees, or any right to.'"

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 25, line 5, after the word 'allotment,' to insert the words 'for which proper compensation shall be paid to the landlord."

Read a second time.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill instead of the last Lords Amendment disagreed to—

"In page 25, line 5, after the word 'allotment' to insert the words 'except the payments of compensation for minerals, gravel, or clay so used.'"—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 25, line 16, to leave out the word 'valuation,' and insert the word 'arbitration,' and leave out the word 'valuer,' and insert the words 'arbitrator agreed on between the parties or in default of agreement.'"

Read a second time.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Sir W. Robson 267
Mr. Cave 268
Mr. Masterman (*West Ham, N.*) 269
Mr. Lyttelton (*St. George's, Hanover Square*) 270
Mr. Walters (*Sheffield, Brightside*) 270
Lord R. Cecil 271
Mr. Chaplin 272

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 137; Noes, 39. (Division List No. 466.)

Lords Amendment—

"In page 25, line 18, to leave out the word 'value,' and insert the word 'arbitration.'"

Read a second time and disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In line 21, to leave out the words 'rating or taxation,' and insert the words 'income-tax the terms and conditions of the hiring.'"

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 273

Amendment to the Lords Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out the words 'income-tax the terms and conditions of hiring,' and insert the words 'or rates.'"—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 25, lines 33 to 40, to leave out paragraph 6."

Read a second time.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Words so restored to the Bill, amended, in page 25, line 37, by leaving out the word "require," and inserting the words "reasonably require for the purposes of valuation"—(*Mr. Harcourt*)—instead thereof.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 25, line 43, after the word 'shall' to insert the words 'in default of agreement.'"

The next Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 26, to leave out line 9."

The next Amendment read a second time and disagreed to.

Remaining Lords Amendments agreed to.

Committee appointed to draw up reasons to be assigned to the Lords for disagreeing to certain of the Amendments made by the Lords to the Bill.

Committee nominated of, Mr. Corrie Grant, Mr. Harcourt, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Solicitor-General and Sir Edward Strachey.

Three to be the quorum.

To withdraw immediately.—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Public Health Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith.—(*Mr. Burns.*)

Lords Amendments considered—

Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 3, line 17, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 3, line 17, after 'inspector,' to insert "(3) The Secretary of State may order that a local inquiry be held in regard to the exercise of any powers conferred on him under this Act."

The next Amendment, read a second time, amended, and agreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 19, line 17, agreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 20, line 4, inclusive, postponed.

Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 43, line 14, to insert a new clause (Crown rights), inclusive, agreed to.

Postponed Lords Amendments amended, and agreed to.

Remaining Lords Amendments amended, and agreed to 275

Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill.—Reasons for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments reported, and agreed to.

To be communicated to the Lords.—(*Mr. Birrell*) 276

Small Holdings and Allotments Bill.—Reasons for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments reported, and agreed to.

To be communicated to the Lords.—(*Mr. Harcourt.*) 276

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to, Notification of Births Bill; Irish Land (No. 2) Bill; Employers' Liability (Insurance Companies) Bill, with an Amendment; Patents and Designs Bill; Patents and Designs (Consolidation) Bill; Cabs and Stage Carriages (London) Bill, with Amendments. 276

Patents and Designs Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 334] 276

Patents and Designs (Consolidation) Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 335] 276

Cabs and Stage Carriages (London) Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 337] 276

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 26th day of July last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at two minutes before Twelve o'clock.

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Regulation as to the registration of motor cars made by the Local Government Board under Section 6 of the Act of 1896 and Section 7 of the Act of 1903:—Smethwick (County Borough)—For assigning index mark to county borough 278

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Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Earl of Crewe 282

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

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Viscount Midleton 283
The Earl of Crewe 285
The Marquess of Lansdowne 268
The Lord Chancellor 287

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That the word 'value' stand in place of the words 'compensation for the loss which will be sustained by the owner by being deprived thereof.'"—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendments."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Earl of Crewe 288

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

The Earl of Crewe 289

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Earl of Crewe 290

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

Lord Atkinson 291
The Lord Chancellor 292
The Earl of Crewe 292
The Marquess of Lansdowne 294
The Earl of Crewe 295

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Commons Amendment thereupon amended (on the Motion of Lord ATKINSON) in such a manner as to provide that the power and duties of the Judicial Commissioner should not be exercised by any other Judge, except during the absence through illness of the Judicial Commissioner; that any person aggrieved by any determination of the Estates Commissioners of a question arising under the provision of the Act

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imposing restrictions on the acquisition of land might appeal locally or to a Judge of the King's Bench Division of the High Court, placed on the rota for the purposes of the Act; and that the Judge should have the power of determining all questions of law and fact arising on any such appeal other than the question referred to the Judicial Commissioner.

Drafting and consequential Amendments agreed to.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

The Earl of Crewe 296

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

The Earl of Crewe 297
Lord Ashbourne 297

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Earl of Crewe 297

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons Amendments."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Earl of Crewe 297

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendments."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne 298

Amendment in page 6, line 39.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Marquess of Lansdowne 299
The Earl of Crewe 299

Committee appointed to prepare a Reason for the Lords disagreeing to the said Amendment, the Committee to meet forthwith.

Bill returned to the Commons.

Small Holdings and Allotments Bill.—Order of the Day read for the consideration of Commons Amendments to Lords Amendments and Commons reasons for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments.

The President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (*Earl Carrington*) .. 300

Moved, "That the Commons Amendments to the Lords Amendments and Commons reasons for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments be considered."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

Viscount St. Aldwyn 300

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Earl Carrington 300

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

Viscount St. Aldwyn 301
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Lord Fitzmaurice*) .. 301
The Duke of Northumberland 320

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Earl Carrington 302

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

The Earl of Dartmouth 302
The Earl of Onslow 303
The Marquess of Lansdowne 303
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 304

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Clause 6, page 4, line 40:—

Earl Carrington 304

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

The Duke of Northumberland 305

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 40, to insert the words 'Where a county council desire to acquire compulsorily land without their county such council shall give notice in the prescribed manner of their intention to acquire such land to the county council of the county in which the land is situated, and if the council of that county object to such acquisition they may appeal to the Board, and the Board shall have power finally to determine all questions arising and to settle the terms of arrangements, if any, between the county councils of the respective counties.' "—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

Earl Carrington 305
Lord Sanderson 306
Lord Fitzmaurice 307

On Question, Motion, " That this House do not insist on the said Amendment," agreed to.

On Question, Amendment moved by the Duke of Northumberland negatived.

Earl Carrington 307

Moved, " That this House do not insist on the said Amendments."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Earl Carrington 307

Moved, " That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Earl Carrington 308

Moved, " That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved " That this House do agree with the Commons Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Earl Carrington 308

Moved, " That this House do not insist on the said Amendment "—(*Earl Carrington.*)

Viscount St. Aldwyn 308

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Earl Carrington 309
Viscount Galway 309

Moved, " That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

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Viscount Galway 309

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 16, to insert the words 'no dwelling-house shall be erected for occupation on any allotments of less than three acres.'"—(*Viscount Galway.*)

Viscount St. Aldwyn 309
Earl Carrington 310
The Marquess of Lansdowne 310
Lord Fitzmaurice 311

On Question, Motion, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment," agreed to.

On Question, Amendment moved by Viscount Galway agreed to.

Earl Carrington 312

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Lord Chancellor 312

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon its Amendment to Clause 26, page 12, line 16, to leave out from the word 'shall' to the end of Subsection (3), and to insert the words 'empower the council to acquire the land in accordance with the provisions of this Act.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Viscount St. Aldwyn 313
The Lord Chancellor 313

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Consequential Motions agreed to.

Earl Carrington 314

Moved, "That this House do disagree with the Commons Amendment, and that the Lords Amendment be amended by the addition of the words 'attached to and usually occupied with a mansion house, or that is otherwise required for the amenity or convenience of any dwelling-house.'"—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Consequential Amendment agreed to.

Earl Carrington 315

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment.'"—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Page

Earl Carrington 315

Amendment moved—

"After the word 'undertaking' to omit the words 'place of historic or' and insert the words 'is the site of an ancient monument or other object of.'"—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, insisted on.

Earl Carrington 316

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

Viscount St. Aldwyn 316

On Question, Motion agreed to.

On Question, Commons Amendment agreed to.

Earl Carrington 317

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Earl Carrington 318

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Lord Chancellor 318

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Lord Chancellor 319

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Lord Clinton 319
Viscount St. Aldwyn 320

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Consequential Amendment agreed to.

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Lord Fitzmaurice 320
Viscount St. Aldwyn 321

Moved, "That this House do disagree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*Viscount St. Aldwyn.*)

On Motion, Motion agreed to.

Earl Carrington 321

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in their proposed Amendment."

Viscount St. Aldwyn 321
Earl Carrington 322

On Question, Commons Amendment agreed to.

Earl Carrington 322

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Earl Carrington 323

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Lord Chancellor 323

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Viscount St. Aldwyn 324
The Earl of Onslow 325
Earl Carrington 327
The Lord Chancellor 328
Viscount St. Aldwyn 329

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Lord Chancellor 330

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

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The Lord Chancellor 331

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Viscount St. Aldwyn 331

Amendment moved—

"In Schedule 1, page 25, line 36, after the word 'hired' to insert the words 'except documents of title.'"—(*Viscount St. Aldwyn.*)

On Question, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment," Motion agreed to.

On Question, Amendment proposed by Viscount St. Aldwyn agreed to.

Commons Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In the First Schedule, page 25, line 40, to insert the following new paragraph:—'The matters to be referred to a valuer before the ending of any tenancy created by compulsory hiring, shall, on the application of either party, be ordered by the Board to be determined by arbitration instead of by a valuer, provided that any costs of the arbitration which the Board may deem to have been incurred by reason of such matters being referred to arbitration instead of to a valuer shall be paid by the party applying for arbitration.'"—(*Viscount St. Aldwyn.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Earl Carrington 332

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

A Committee appointed to prepare a reason for the Lords disagreeing to one of the Commons Amendments: The Committee to meet forthwith.

Cabs and Stage Carriages (London) Bill.—Commons reason for disagreeing to one of the Lords Amendments considered (on Motion).

Lord Stalbridge 332

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 4, to leave out Subsection (2)."—(*Lord Stalbridge.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 333
Earl Beauchamp 334

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On Question, "That this House do not insist upon their Amendment to leave out Clause 2 to which the Commons disagreed," Motion agreed to.

On Question, "That Subsection (2) stand part of the Bill," Motion negatived.

Lord Stalbridge 335

Amendment moved—

> "In page 2, line 17, to leave out all words after the word 'affect' to the end of the subsection, and to insert the words 'liability of cabs or the drivers thereof to comply with any regulations or conditions which may be made by the company having control of the railway station for the purpose of maintaining order or dealing with the traffic at such station, including regulations as to: (1) the number of cabs to be admitted at any one time; (2) the rejection of cabs and drivers unfit for admission; and (3) the expulsion of any cabman who has been guilty of any misconduct or of a breach of the company's by-laws or regulations.' "—(*Lord Stalbridge.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Stalbridge 335

Amendment moved—

> "In page 2, line 25, at the end, to add the words, 'And shall remain in force up to the first day of January, 1910.' "—(*Lord Stalbridge.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill returned to the Commons.

Public Health Bill.—Order of the Day for the consideration of Commons Amendments to the Lords Amendments read.

The Lord Chancellor 335
The Earl of Onslow 336

Consideration postponed.

Transvaal Loan (Guarantee) Bill [SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Earl of Elgin*) 337

Moved, "That the said Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Elgin.*)

Viscount Milner 344
Viscount St. Aldwyn 352
Lord Lovat 357
The Earl of Elgin 361

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On Question, Motion agreed to.

Bill read 2ª accordingly. Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª and passed.

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.—Read 2ª (according to order). Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, and passed 363

Public Health Bill.—Commons Amendments to Lords Amendments considered (according to order), and agreed to 363

Public Works Loans Bill.—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Denman 364

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Lord Denman.*)

Viscount St. Aldwyn 364
The Earl of Elgin 365

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Bill read 2ª accordingly. Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª and passed.

Small Shops for Shop Assistants Bill [H.L.].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read, and discharged 368

Small Holdings and Allotments Bill; Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill.—Report from the Committee of the reason to be offered to the Commons for the Lords disagreeing to one of their Amendments, read, and agreed to; and a Message sent to the Commons to return the Bill with the Lords Amendments to the Commons Amendments, and the reason for disagreeing to one of the Commons Amendments 368

Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendment made by the Lords to the Amendment on which the Lords do not insist agreed to; with the Amendments made by the Lords to the Amendment made by the Commons, and the consequential Amendment made by the Lords to the Bill, agreed to 369

Cabs and Stage Carriages (London) Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments made by the Lords to the Amendment made by the Commons agreed to 369

Small Holdings and Allotments Bill.—Returned from the Commons with several of the Lords Amendments agreed to; one of the Lords Amendments agreed to, with an Amendment; and one of the Amendments made by the Lords, disagreed to; but an Amendment proposed in lieu thereof.

The Lord Chancellor 369

Moved, "That this House doth agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."

Viscount St. Aldwyn 369

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Lord Chancellor 370

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."

Viscount St. Aldwyn 370
Lord Clinton 371
The Lord Chancellor 372

Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in their proposed Amendment to the First Schedule, page 25, line 17, to insert the words, 'Provided that if the land hired is in the occupation of a tenant he may, by notice in writing served on a council before the termination of his tenancy, require that any claim by him against the council shall be determined by arbitration under the Agricultural Holdings Acts, 1883 to 1906, and not by valuation under this Act.'"

On Question, Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Eleven o'clock till To-morrow, Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 27TH AUGUST, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before three of the Clock.

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EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Stirling, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 373

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POSTAL AGREEMENT (BULGARIA).—Copy presented, of Postal Agreement for an exchange of Postal and Telegraph Money Orders between the Post Office of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Bulgaria [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 373

MERCANTILE MARINE.—Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the Supply and Training of boy seamen for the Mercantile Marine, Vol. I., Report. Vol. II., Minutes of Evidence and Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.. 373

MERCHANT SHIPPING, 1906.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th August; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 348] 373

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COAL TABLES, 1906.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th August; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 349] 373

IRON AND STEEL, 1906.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th August; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 350] 373

EXPORTS TO CHINA AND SOUTH AMERICA.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th August; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 351] 374

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their Proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 352] 374

PILOTAGE.—Copy presented, of Abstract of Returns relating to Pilots and Pilotage in the United Kingdom (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 221 of Session 1906) as furnished by the various Pilotage Authorities [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 353] 374

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TREATY SERIES (No. 26, 1907).—Copy presented, of Protocol for the Accession of Non-Signatory Powers to the Convention of 29th July, 1899, for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, 14th June, 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 374

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MOTOR CAR ACTS.—Copy presented of Regulations made under the Acts: I. Ware; II. London; III. Smethwick [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. 375

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—(*Mr. Harold Cox.*)

TRANSVAAL COLONY (CIVIL SERVANTS DISMISSED).—Address for "Return showing the names, posts, and salaries of the Civil Servants who have been or may be retrenched or discharged from the Transvaal service from the 1st day of May to the 1st day of October, 1907."—(*Mr. Wedgwood*) 376

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NEW BILL.

Criminal Procedure and Summary Jurisdiction (Scotland) Bill.—"To regulate and amend Criminal Procedure in Scotland, and to extend the Jurisdiction and Powers of the Sheriff in Summary Criminal Cases," presented by the Lord Advocate; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 338.] 410

Cabs and Stage Carriages (London) Bill.—Lords Amendments considered.

First Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 1, line 23 to leave out Clause 2."

Read a second time.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 410

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 411
Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs) 412

Question put, and agreed to.

Remaining Lords Amendments agreed to.

Committee appointed to draw up reasons to be assigned to the Lords for disagreeing to one of their Amendments to the Bill.

Committee nominated of—Mr. Secretary Gladstone, Mr. Lough, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. John O'Connor, Mr. Pickersgill, and Mr. Herbert Samuel.

Three to be the quorum.

To withdraw immediately.—(*Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*)

Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Deduction for Propelling Power) Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 413

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.—Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 1, line 18, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 1, line 18, to leave out the word 'shall' and insert the word 'may,'"

Read a second time.

Mr. Napier (Kent, Faversham) .. 413
Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.) .. 414

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 2, line 27, after Clause 3 to insert a new clause 'Liability incurred through ecclesiastical censure.'"

Read a second time.

Mr. Essex (Gloucestershire, Cirencester) .. 414
Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.) .. 415
Mr. Stewart (Greenock) .. 415
Sir Brampton Gurdon .. 415
Lord R. Cecil .. 415

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Patents and Designs Bill.— Lords Amendments considered.

The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Burghs) 416

Lords Amendments agreed to.

Patents and Designs (Consolidation) Bill.—Lords Amendments considered.

Mr. Lloyd-George .. 416
Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley) .. 417

Lords Amendments agreed to.

Cabs and Stage Carriages (London) Bill.—Reason for disagreeing to one of the Lords Amendments reported, and agreed to.

To be communciated to the Lords.—(*Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) .. 417

The sitting was suspended at a quarter past Four of the Clock.

The House resumed at a quarter to Eight of the Clock.

Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill.—Message from the Lords :—That they do not insist on certain of their Amendments to the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill to which this House has disagreed ; that they do not insist on one of their Amendments, but propose an Amendment in lieu thereof to which they desire the concurrence of this House.

That they agree to certain other Amendments made by this House to the Amendments made by the Lords without Amendment, and to one other Amendment made by this House with Amendments to which they desire the concurrence of this House. That they disagree to certain other Amendments made by this House, for which disagreement they assign their reason.

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) .. 418

Lords reason for disagreeing to certain Amendments made by this House, and Lords Amendment instead of the Amendment to which this House hath disagreed, and Lords Amendments to Commons Amendments to Lords Amendments, to be considered forthwith—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Lords reason and Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Small Holdings and Allotments Bill.—Message from the Lords:—That they do not insist on certain of their Amendments to the Small Holdings and Allotments Bill to which the Commons have disagreed; that they do not insist on certain other of their Amendments, but propose others in lieu thereof to which they desire the concurrence of this House.

That they agree to certain of the Amendments made by the Commons to the Amendments made by the Lords to the said Bill without Amendment; that they disagree to one other of the Amendments, but propose an Amendment in lieu thereof, to which they desire the concurrence of this House, and disagree to one other of the Amendments, for which disagreement they assign their reason.

The First Commissioner of Works (*Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale*) 419

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Lords reasons for disagreeing to one of the Commons Amendments to the Lords Amendments, and Lords Amendments to the Bill, and Lords Amendments to Commons Amendments to Lords Amendments be considered forthwith."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords reason and Amendments considered.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 10, line 12, after the word 'allotment' to insert the words, 'erect a dwelling on not less than three acres,'"

Read a second time.

Mr. Chaplin (*Wimbledon*) 420

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 15, line 27, to insert the words 'or form part of the home farm attached to, and usually occupied with, the mansion house,'"

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In the First Schedule, page 25, line 40, to insert the following new paragraph:—'The matters to be referred to a valuer before the

ending of any tenancy created by compulsory hiring, shall, on the application of either party, be ordered by the Board to be determined by arbitration instead of by a valuer, provided that any costs of the arbitration which the Board may deem to have been incurred by reason of such matters being referred to arbitration instead of to a valuer shall be paid by the party applying for arbitration,' "

Read a second time.

Mr. Harcourt 420
Mr. Chaplin 421
The Solicitor-General (*Sir W. Robson, South Shields*) 422

Lords Amendment disagreed to, and Amendment, in lieu thereof, to the effect stated by Mr. Harcourt, agreed to.

Cabs and Stage Carriages (London) Bill.—Message from the Lords :—That they do not insist on their Amendment to the Cabs and Stage Carriages (London) Bill, to which the Commons have disagreed, but propose other Amendments in lieu thereof, in which they desire the concurrence of this House.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. H. Samuel, Yorkshire, Cleveland*) 424

Lords Amendments to the Bill, instead of the Amendment to which this House hath disagreed, to be considered forthwith (*Mr. Herbert Samuel*) ; considered, and agreed to.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.—Resolved, That this House do meet To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 26th day of July last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes after Eight o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: WEDNESDAY, 28TH AUGUST, 1907.

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NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Appendix (Section IV.) to the Annual Report of the Commissioners, for the year 1905–1906 425

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND).—Thirty-ninth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records, for the year 1906.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 425

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—Regulations made by the Board of Trade under the Weights and Measures Acts, 1904. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 425

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Royal Commission.—The following Bills received the Royal Assent:—

1. Prize Courts.
2. Criminal Appeal.
3. Limited Partnerships.
4. Advertisements Regulation.
5. Isle of Man (Customs).
6. Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister.
7. Evicted Tenants (Ireland).
8. Public Health.
9. Patents and Designs.
10. Patents and Designs (Consolidation).
11. Factory and Workshop.
12. Public Health (Regulations as to Food).
13. Education (Administrative Provisions).
14. Judicature (Ireland).
15. Sea Fisheries (Scotland) Application of Penalties.
16. Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils).
17. Small Holdings and Allotments.
18. Council of India.
19. Transvaal Loan (Guarantee).
20. Employers Liability Insurance Companies.
21. Irish Land (No. 2).
22. Cabs and Stage Carriages (London).
23. Vaccination (Scotland).
24. Public Health (Scotland) Amendment.
25. Lights on Vehicles.
26. Vaccination.
27. Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Deduction for Propelling Power).
28. Companies.

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29. Qualification of Women (County and Town Councils) (Scotland).
30. Expiring Laws Continuance.
31. Public Works Loans.
32. Whale Fisheries (Scotland).
33. Notification of Births.
34. Sheriff Courts (Scotland).
35. Dumbarton Burgh and County Tramways Order Confirmation.
36. Dumbarton Burgh Order Confirmation.
37. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1).
38. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2).
39. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3).
40. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4).
41. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5)
42. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6).
43. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7).
44. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8).
45. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9).
46. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10).
47. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11).
48. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12).
49. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13).
50. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14).
51. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15).
52. Caledonian Railway Order Confirmation.
53. Kilmarnock Corporation Water Order Confirmation.
54. Inverness Royal Academy Order Confirmation.
55. Aberdeen Harbour Order Confirmation.
56. Lanarkshire County Council Order Confirmation.

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57. Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.).

58. Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (Additional Capital, etc.).

59. Barry Railway.

60. Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers).

61. London County Council (General Powers).

62. York (Micklegate) Strays 425

HIS MAJESTY'S SPEECH.

And afterwards His Majesty's most gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the Lord Chancellor (in pursuance of His Majesty's Command).

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which the Lord Chancellor said:

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

By virtue of His Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in His Majesty's Name and in obedience to His Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Saturday the Sixteenth day of November next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Saturday the Sixteenth day of November next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 28TH AUGUST, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Appendix to the Seventy-second Report of the Commissioners, being for the year 1905–6. Section IV. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 430

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of the Thirty-ninth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records and Keeper of the State Papers in Ireland, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 431

STEAMSHIP SUBSIDIES.—Return presented relative thereto [ordered 27th August; *Mr. Harold Cox*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 359.] 431

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—Copy presented, of Regulations made by the Board of Trade under the Weights and Measures Act, 1904 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 360.]

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[COMMISSION.]

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went, and having returned,

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Acts. (*See* p. 425.)

And afterwards His Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the Lord High Chancellor (in pursuance of His Majesty's Commands).

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which the Lord Chancellor said :—

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

By virtue of His Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in His Majesty's Name, and in obedience to His Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Saturday the Sixteenth day of November next, to be then here holden ; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Saturday the Sixteenth day of November next.

End of the Second Session of the twenty-eighth Parliament of the United Kingdom and Ireland in the Seventh Year of the Reign of His Majesty King Edward VII.

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VOLUME CLXXXII.

ERRATA.

Col. 208, line 53, *for* "agree" *read* "disagree"; line 55, *for* "disagree" *read* "agree."

Col. 237, lines 22, 23, should read "Mr. Harcourt said he had not been informed that London had any intention, etc."

Col. 249, line 38, *after* "cultivation" to end of paragraph, should read "because it would not exceed £50 in annual value."

Col. 254, line 3, *after* "any" *insert* "other"; line 22, *before* "audit" *insert* "Government."

APPENDIX I.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CLXXXII.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the House of Lords.

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Cabs and Stage Carriages (London)	*Earl Beauchamp*	Committee Report Read 3^a and passed } 26th Aug. (91) Commons Amendments considered 27th Aug. (332) Royal Assent 29th Aug. (426)
*Companies [H.L.]	*Earl of Granard*	Royal Assent 28th Aug. (426)
*Council of India	*Marquess of Ripon*	Read 3^a and passed 26th Aug. (23) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Criminal Appeal	*Lord Loreburn*	Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Education (Administrative Provisions)	*Earl of Crewe*	Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Employers' Liability (Insurance Companies)	*Earl of Granard*	Committee Report Read 3^a and passed } 26th Aug. (105) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (426)
*Evicted Tenants (Ireland)	*Earl of Crewe*	Commons Amendments considered 27th Aug. (283) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Expiring Laws Continuance		Read 2^a Committee Report Read 3^a and passed } 27th Aug. (426)
*Factory and Workshops	*Earl Beauchamp*	Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Irish Land (No. 2)	*Lord Denman*	Read 2^a Committee Report Read 3^a and passed } 26th Aug. (89) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (426)
*Isle of Man (Customs)	*Marquess of Ripon*	Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Judicature (Ireland)	*Lord Denman*	Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Land Values (Scotland)	*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell*	Second Reading (defeated) 26th Aug. (23)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Lights on Vehicles	*Earl of Donoughmore*	Commons Amendments considered 26th Aug. (111). Royal Assent 28th Aug. (426)
Limited Partnership	*Lord Avebury*	Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister	*Lord Tweedmouth*	Report Read 3^a and passed } 26th Aug. (4) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Deduction for Propelling Powers)	*Earl of Granard*	Royal Assent 28th Aug. (426)
*Notification of Births	*Lord Allendale*	Committee Report Read 3^a and passed } 26th Aug. (106) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (426)
*Patents and Designs	*Earl of Granard*	Report Read 3^a and passed } 26th Aug. (89) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Patents and Designs (Consolidations)	*Earl of Granard*	Report Read 3^a and passed } 26th Aug. (89) Royal Assent 28th Aug (425)
*Prize Courts	*Lord Loreburn*	Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Public Health	*Lord Allendale*	Commons Amendments considered 27th Aug. (336) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Public Health (Regulations as to Food)		Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Public Health (Scotland) Amendment	*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell*	Royal Assent 28th Aug. (426)
*Public Works Loans	*Lord Denman*	Read 2^a Committee Report Read 3^a and passed } 27th Aug. (364) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (426)
*Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils)	*Earl of Crewe*	Royal Assent 28th Aug. (426)
*Qualification of Women (County and Town Councils (Scotland)	*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell*	Commons Amendments considered 26th Aug. (106) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (426)
*Sea Fisheries (Scotland) (Application of Penalties)	*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell*	Royal Assent 2t8h Aug. (425)
*Sheriff Courts (Scotland)	*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell*	Read 2^a Committee Report Read 3^a and passed } 26th Aug. (108) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (426)
*Small Holdings and Allotments	*Lord Burghclere*	Commons Amendments considered 27th Aug. (299), (369) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Transvaal Loan (Guarantee)	*Earl of Elgin*	Read 2^a Committee Report Read 3^a and passed } 27th Aug. (337) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (426)
*Vaccination (Scotland)	*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell*	Royal Assent 28th Aug. (425)
*Whale Fisheries (Scotland)	*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell*	Read 2^a Committee Report Read 3^a and passed } 26th Aug. (107) Royal Assent 28th Aug. (426)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Cabs and Stages Carriages (London)	*Mr. Gladstone*	Lords Amendments considered 27th Aug (410)
*Criminal Proceedings and Summary Jurisdiction (Scotland)	*Mr. T. Shaw*	Read 1^a 27th Aug. (410)
*Evicted Tenants (Ireland)	*Mr. Birrell*	Lords Amendments considered 26th Aug. (181) Lords Amendments considered 27th Aug. (417)
*Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister	*Sir W. Gurdon*	Lords Amendments considered 27th Aug. (413)
*Patents and Designs Consolidation	*Mr. Lloyd-George*	Lords Amendments considered 27th Aug. (416)
*Public Health	*Mr. J. Burns*	Lords Amendments considered 26th Aug. (275)
*Small Holdings and Allotments	*Mr. Harcourt*	Lords Amendments considered 26th Aug. (207) Lords Amendments considered 27th Aug. (418).

PUBLIC BILLS DEALT WITH IN SESSION 1907.

*Those marked thus * are Government Bills.*

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Absent Voters [47]	*Mr. Williamson.*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Adult (Women and Men) Enfranchisement [142]	*Mr. Levy.*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Advertisements Regulation [81] [177] [287]	*Mr. Hart-Davies*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Aged Pensioners [37]	*Mr. Samuel Roberts*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Agricultural Education in Elementary Schools [128]	*Mr. Jesse Collings*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Army (Annual) [107]	*Mr. Secretary Haldane*	*Royal Assent*, April 29.
*Australian States Constitution [Lords] [193]	*Mr. Churchill*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 2.
Ballot Act (1872) Amendment [265]	*Mr. Dunn*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28
Bankruptcy (Scotland) [267]	*Mr. Cleland*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Blind (Technical Education, &c.) [148]	*Mr. Steadman*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Board of Education Scheme (Hulme Trust Estates Educational Confirmation) [203]	*Mr. M'Kenna*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 9.
*British North America [238]	*Mr. Churchill*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 9.
Building Lands (Scotland) [104]	*Mr. Munro Ferguson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Butter and Margarine [7] [223] [312]	*Sir Edward Strachey*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 21.
*Cabs and Stage Carriages (London) [296] [316]	*Mr. Secretary Gladstone*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Character Note [87]	*Mr. Bell*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Church Discipline [57]	*Mr. Austin Taylor*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Civil Bills Courts (Dublin) [103]	*Mr. John Gordon*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Clerks of the Peace and County Council [77]	*Mr. Luttrell*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Coal Mines (Eight Hours) [13]	*Mr. Walsh*	Consideration [*Dropped*].
*Coal Mines (Eight Hours) (No. 2) [295]	*Mr. Secretary Gladstone*	*Withdrawn*, Aug. 21.
Coal Mines Regulation [24]	*Mr. Wadsworth*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Companies [Lords] [208] [321]	*Mr. Lloyd-George*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Companies (Debentures and Debenture Stocks [Lords] [301]	*Sir William Holland*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Compulsory Weighing and Measurements [16]	*Mr. H. G. Roberts*	Committee [*Dropped*].
*Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) [309]	*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 21.
*Consolidated Fund (No. 1)	*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*	*Royal Assent*, Mar. 22.
Conveyancing [199]	*Mr. Micklem*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Convicts' Divorce [162]	*Mr. Bottomley*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Coroners [58]	*Mr. Luke White*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Coroners' Inquests (Railway Fatalities) [30]	*Sir Francis Channing*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Corporal Punishment (Restriction) [45]	*Mr. Lloyd Morgan*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Council of India [292]	*Mr. Secretary Morley*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Credit Banks [235]	*Sir John Brunner*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Criminal Appeal [161] [264] [326]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts Amendment [51]	*Mr. Weir*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Crofters (Scotland) 105]	*Mr. Munro Ferguson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Destructive Insects and Pests [Lords] [217]	*Sir Edward Strachey*	*Royal Assent*, July 4.
Diseases of Animals Act (1896) Amendment [197]	*Mr. Cairns*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Dogs (Injuries to Persons) [127]	*Mr. Dundas White*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Dogs (Protection) [72]	*Mr. Ellis Griffith*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Dublin Metropolitan Police [26]	*Mr. Harrington*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Ecclesiastical Disorders [25]	*Sir George Kekewich*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Education [234]	*Mr. Verney*	2nd Reading, [*Dropped*].
Education Acts Amendment [22] [108]	*Mr. Walter Rea*	Adjourned Debate on 3rd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
*Education (Administrative Provisions) [83] [302]	*Mr. M'Kenna*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Education (England and Wales) [323]	*Mr. Higham*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Education of Afflicted Children (Ireland) [102]	*Mr. Charles Craig*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Education (Popular Control) [204]	*Mr. D. A. Thomas*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland) [14]	*Mr. Ramsay Macdonald*	As amended by the Standing Committee to be considered, Wed. Aug. 28.
*Education (Scotland) [130]	*Mr. Sinclair*	*Withdrawn*, Aug. 21.
*Education (Special Religious Instruction) [73]	*Mr. M'Kenna*	*Withdrawn*, July 29.
Eight Hours [136]	*Mr. Thorne*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Employment of British Subjects Abroad [324]	*Mr. Crooks*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
*Employment of Women [Lords] [211]	*Mr. Herbert Samuel*	*Royal Assent*, Aug 9.
*Employers' Liability Insurance Companies [63] [311]	*Mr. Kearley*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) [41]	*Mr. John Taylor*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Evicted Tenants (Ireland) [258] [291] [327] [331]	*Mr. Birrell*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Evidence (Colonial Statutes) [202]	*Mr. Churchill*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 21.
*Expiring Laws Continuance [313]	*Mr. Runciman*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Factory and Workshop [Lords] [244] [315]	*Mr. Secretary Gladstone*	*Royal Assent* Aug. 28.
Factory and Workshop Act (1901) Amendment [115]	*Mr. C. H. Corbett*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Factory and Workshop Act (1901) Amendment (No. 2) [222]	*Mr. Jowett*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Factory and Workshop Act (1901) Amendment (No. 3) [226]	*Mr. Steadman*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Fatal Accidents (Damages) [Lords] [ ]		*Brought from the Lords*, Aug. 12.
Ferries (Ireland) [129]	*Mr. Gwynn*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Feus and Building Leases (Scotland) [95]	*Mr. Findlay*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
*Finance [190] [275] [288]	*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 9.
Financial and Commercial Gambling [110]	*Mr. Bottomley*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Fisheries (Ireland) [46]	*Mr. Mooney*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Foreign Trawlers (Regulation) [48]	*Mr. Williamson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities [43]	*Sir Charles Dilke*	*Withdrawn*, March 25.
Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities (No. 2) [147]	*Sir Charles Dilke*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Fruit Growers (Scotland) [180]	*Mr. Menzies*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Grocers' Licences (Scotland) [62]	*Mr. Rainy*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Harbour Authorities (Ireland) [166]	*Mr. Joseph Devlin*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Home Work [158]	*Mr. Barnes*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Home Work Regulation [60]	*Mr. Ramsay Macdonald*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Hours of Labour (Bakehouses) [93]	*Mr. Wilkie*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
House of Lords (Restriction of Powers) [251]	*Lord Robert Cecil*	*Withdrawn*, June 21.
Housing of the Working Classes, etc., [71]	*Mr. Bowerman*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Housing of the Working Classes Acts Amendment [86]	*Sir Walter Foster*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Imported Watch-cases [198] [250]	*Mr. Kearley*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 2.
Incest [173] [257]	*Colonel Lockwood*	As amended by the Standing Committee to be considered, Wed. Aug. 28.
Infant Life Protection [54]	*Mr. Staveley Hill*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Injured Animals Act (1894) Amendment [214] [256]	*Sir Howard Vincent*	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
Intestates Husband's Estates (Scotland) [21]	*Mr. Crombie*	Committed to a Standing Committee, May 3.
*Irish Council [182]	*Mr. Birrell*	*Withdrawn*, July 29.
Irish Land [39]	*Mr. T. W. Russell*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Irish Land (No. 2) [69]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Royal Assent*, Aug 28.
Irish National Schools Heating [255]	*Captain Craig*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Irish Tobacco [31] [159]	*Mr. William Redmond*	*Royal Assent*, July 4.
*Isle of Man (Customs) [253]	*Mr. Runciman*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Judicature [Lords] [ ]		*Brought from the Lords*, April 25.
*Judicature (Ireland) [96]	*Mr. Birrell*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Jurors' Expenses [44]	*Mr. Lloyd-Morgan*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Justices of the Peace [78]	*Mr. Luttrell*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Kingswood (Whitfield Tabernacle, Schoolroom, etc.) Charity [125]	*Mr. Trevelyan*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 9.
Land Law (Ireland) Acts Amendment [12]	*Mr. Hogan*	Committed to a Standing Committee, April 19.
*Lands Values (Scotland) [194] [306]	*The Lord-Advocate*	*Passed*, Aug. 20.
Larceny [279]	*Mr. Courthope*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Leasehold Enfranchisement [65]	*Mr. Maclean*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Leeds (South Parade Chapel) Charity [124]	*Mr. Trevelyan*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 9.
Licensed Premises (Election Days) (Closing) [40]	*Mr. Charles Roberts*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Licensing (Scotland) Amendment [76]	*Mr. Findlay*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Lights on Vehicles [19] [168] [325]	*Major Renton*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Limited Partnerships [91] [192] [241] [289]	*Sir William Holland*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Liquor Traffic (Local Option) (Scotland) [15]	*Mr. Robert Balfour*	Committed to a Standing Committee, April 26.
Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) [29]	*Mr. Leif Jones*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Local Authorities' Officers [88]	*Mr. Luke White*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Local Authorities (Taxation and Purchase of Land) [174]	*Mr. Thomasson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Local Registration of Title (Ireland) [70]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Withdrawn*, July 29.
London Municipal Elections (Hours of Poll) [114]	*Mr. Dickinson*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Longton (Caroline Street Chapel) Charity [126]	*Mr. Trevelyan*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 9.
*Lunacy (Ireland) [236]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Withdrawn*, July 29.

Title of Bill	Brought in by	Progress.
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister [10] [116] [336]	*Sir Brampton Gurdon*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Married Women's Property [201]	*Mr. Micklem*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 21.
*Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment [Lords] [233]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 9.
Merchandise Marks [33] [155]	*Sir Howard Vincent*	Consideration as amended by the Standing Committee [*Dropped*].
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment [Lords] [ ]	- - - - -	*Brought from the Lords*, Aug. 12.
*Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Deduction for Propelling Powers) [137] [281] [330]	*Mr. Lloyd-George*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Monastic and Conventional Institutions [249]	*Mr. T. L. Corbett*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Mortgage of Premises [167]	*Mr. Joseph Walton*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Motor Car (Collisions and Accidents) [303]	*Mr. Bertram*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Municipal Elections [170]	*Mr. Cleland*	3rd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
*Municipal Milk Depôts [143] [225]	*Mr. Burns*	*Withdrawn*, July 26.
*Naval Lands (Volunteers) [171]	*Mr. Edmund Robertson*	*Withdrawn*, July. 29.
*Navigation Works (Ireland) [237]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Withdrawn*, Aug. 21.
Notification of Births [169] [219]	*Lord Robert Cecil*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Nurses and Private Nursing Homes (Registration) [157]	*Mr. Hay*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Nurses' Registration [106]	*Mr. Munro Ferguson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Old Age Pensions [17]	*Mr. W. H. Lever*	Committee [*Dropped*].
Open Spaces (Scotland) [150]	*Mr. McCrae*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Outdoor Relief (Pensioners) [98]	*Mr. Ramsay Macdonald*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Parliamentary Elections (Hours of Poll) [113]	*Mr. Pickersgill*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Parliamentary Voters (Registration) [152]	*Mr. Cremer*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Parochial Medical Officers (Scotland) [131]	*Mr. Cathcart Wason*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Patents and Designs [121] [221] [334]	*Mr. Lloyd-George*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Patents and Designs (No. 2) [151]	*Mr. Dundas White*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Patents and Designs (Consolidation) [165] [335]	*Mr. Kearley*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Pedlars Acts Amendment [67]	*Mr. Stopford Brooke*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Petty Sessional Clerks (Ireland) [189] [276]	*Mr. Sloan*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 21.
Pharmacy [53]	*Mr. Winfrey*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Poisons and Pharmacy [61]	*Mr. Herbert Samuel*	*Withdrawn*, July 26
*Police (Superannuation) [80]	*Mr. Samuel Roberts*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Police Superannuation (Scotland) [36]	*Mr. McCrae*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Political Pensions [35]	*Sir Howard Vincent*	Committee (*Progress*) [*Dropped*].
Poor Law (Scotland) Amendment [216]	*Sir Thomas Glen Coats*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Post Office Sites [5] [220]	*Mr. Buxton*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 21.
Prevention of Cruelty to Children [94]	*Mr. Bramsdon*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Primogeniture [186]	*Mr. Arnold Herbert*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Prisons (Ireland) [68]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 21.
*Prize Courts [Lords] [304]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Probation of First Offenders [34]	*Sir Howard Vincent*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Probation of Offenders [75]	*Mr. Secretary Gladstone*	*Withdrawn*, Mar. 18.
*Probation of Offenders (No. 2) [118] [239]	*Mr. Secretary Gladstone*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 21.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Prohibition of Medical Practice by Companies [Lords] [284]	*Sir John Batty Tuke*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Public Health [66] [260] [293] [333]	*Mr. John William Wilson*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Public Health Act (1875) Amendment (Water Rights) [320]	*Mr. Leif Jones*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Public Health Officers [85]	*Sir Walter Foster*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Public Health (Regulations as to Food) [3]	*Mr. Burns*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Public Health (Scotland) Amendment [Lords] [317]	*Mr. Sinclair*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Public Libraries [90]	*Mr. Tennant*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Public Rights of Way [138]	*Mr. Ramsay Macdonald*	*Withdrawn*, April 9.
Public Rights of Way (No. 2) [156] [242]	*Mr. Ramsay Macdonald*	As amended by the Standing Committee to be considered, Wed. Aug. 28.
*Public Works Loans [310]	*Mr. Runciman*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Purchase of Land (England and Wales) [99]	*Mr. Jesse Collings*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Purity of Milk Supplies (Scotland) [213]	*Mr. Watt*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
*Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils) [Lords] [297]	*Mr. Burns*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Qualification of Women (County and Town Councils (Scotland) [Lords] [298]	*Mr. Sinclair*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Railways (Contracts [9]	*Mr. Lambton*	Not amended by the Standing Committee to be considered [*Dropped*].
Railways, Mines, Canals, &c. [135]	*Mr. Thorne*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Railway Tickets [89]	*Mr. Morton*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Rating Appeals (Costs) [119]	*Mr. Barnard*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Reformatory and Industrial Schools [56]	*Mr. George Greenwood*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Reformatory and Industrial Schools (No. 2) [179]	*Mr. George Greenwood*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Regulation of Railways [134]	*Mr. Timothy Davies*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) [100]	*Mr. Herbert Samuel*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 21.
Resident Magistrates (Belfast) [23]	*Mr. Wolff*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Restraint of Trade (Shops) [187]	*Mr. Seddon*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Rights of Way (Scotland) [117]	*Mr. Gulland*	*Withdrawn*, Mar. 26.
Rights of Way (Scotland) (No. 2) [164]	*Mr. Munro Ferguson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Rule Committee [Lords] [305]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Withdrawn*, Aug. 21.
Sale of Food and Drugs Amendment (Scotland) [252]	*Mr. Mitchell-Thomson*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Contracts) [271]	*Mr. Richardson*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
*Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) [38]	*Mr. Sloan*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Sale of Whisky [49]	*Mr. Williamson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries [Lords] [280]	*Sir Edward Strachey*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 21.
Saturday Closing of Public Houses [109]	*Mr. Bottomley*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
School Board Electorate (Scotland) [52]	*Mr. Weir*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
School Boards Conferences (Scotland) [97]	*Mr. Eugene Wason*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
*Sea Fisheries (Scotland) (Application of Penalties) [145]	*Mr. Sinclair*	*Royal Assent*, Wed. Aug. 28.
Settled Land [200]	*Mr. Micklem*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*]
Settlement of Paupers [55]	*Mr. Staveley-Hill*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*]
*Sheriff Courts (Scotland) [139] [329]	*The Lord Advocate*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Shop Clubs Act (1902) Amendment [160]	*Mr. John Ward*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Shops [42]	*Sir Charles Dilke*	*Withdrawn*, Feb. 19.
Shops (No. 2) [59]	*Sir Charles Dilke*	*Withdrawn*, Mar. 12.
Shops (No. 3) [181]	*Sir Charles Dilke*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Small Holdings [18]	*Mr. George Hardy*	*Withdrawn*, Mar. 25.
Small Holdings (No. 2) [120]	*Mr. Jesse Collings*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Small Holdings (No. 3) [149]	*Mr. George Hardy*	*Withdrawn*, May 6.
*Small Holdings and Allotments [212] [300] [318] [332]	*Mr. Harcourt*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Small Holdings and Cottages [144]	*Lord Robert Cecil*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Small Holdings (Scotland) [64]	*Mr. Munro Ferguson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Small Holdings (Scotland) (No. 2) [84]	*Mr. Munro Ferguson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Small Landholders (Scotland) [122] [294] [307]	*Mr. Sinclair*	*Passed*, Aug. 9.
Spurious Sports [79]	*Mr. Luttrell*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
*State Reformatories [290]	*Mr. Secretary Gladstone*	*Withdrawn*, Aug. 7.
*Statute Law Revision [Lords] [259]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Withdrawn*, July 26.
Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) [32]	*Mr. Fetherstonhaugh*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment [28]	*Mr. Herbert Roberts*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Sunday Trading (Scotland) [188]	*Mr. Cameron Corbett*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Sweated Industries [27]	*Mr. Arthur Henderson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Teachers of Music (Registration) [191]	*Mr. O'Neill*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
*Telegraph (Construction) [6]	*Mr. Buxton*	*Withdrawn*, July 29.
*Telegraph (Money) [232] [268]	*Mr. Buxton*	*Royal Assent*, Aug 2.
*Territorial and Reserve Forces [92] [229] [286]	*Mr. Secretary Haldane*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 2.
*Town Tenants (England and Wales) [163]	*Mr. Walker*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Trade Disputes [254]	*Mr. Cleland*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
*Transvaal Loan (Guarantee) [314]	*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Trawlers' Certificates Suspension [50]	*Mr. Weir*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Trawlers' Regulation [112]	*Mr. Morton*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Trust Investment [153]	*Mr. Harmood-Banner*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Trusts [123]	*Mr. Rendall*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Unemployed Workmen [273]	*Mr. Ramsay Macdonald*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
University of Durham [272]	*Mr. Hills*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
*Vaccination [172] [245] [328]	*Mr. Burns*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Vaccination (Scotland) [Lords] [322]	*Mr. Sinclair*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Valuation (Ireland) [101]	*Mr. James O'Connor*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Wages Boards [20]	*Mr. Ernest Lamb*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Waste Lands (Ireland) Improvement [282]	*Dr. Ambrose*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Weekly Rest-day [82]	*Mr. Clarke*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Weights and Measures (Metric System) (11)	*Mr. B. S. Straus*	*2nd Reading put off for six months*, Mar. 22.
*Whale Fisheries (Scotland) [146]	*Mr. Sinclair*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Women's Enfranchisement [8]	*Mr. Dickinson*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Women's Enfranchisement (No. 2) [319]	*Mr. Dickinson*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 28.
Youthful Offenders [111]	*Mr. Wedgwood*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS DEALT WITH IN SESSION 1907.

Provisional Orders when reported not confirmed or not proceeded with are printed in Italics

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Canal Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation [Lords] [227]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 4.
*Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1) [Lords] [262]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 2
*Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 2) [Lords] [246]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
*Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, &c.) [Lords] [228]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) [Aston Manor, Chesham, Hipperholme, Lytham, Newark, Penrith, Pontefract, Stockport] [Lords] [230]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2) [Cork] [Lords] [240]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Castleford, Egham, Formby, Grimsby, Liversedge, Maldens and Coombe, Mansfield, Paignton, Selby, Stoke-upon-Trent] [Lords] [261]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 2.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 4) [Arbroath] [Lords] [243]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) [Minehead and Dunster, Rhymney Valley, St. Albans] [207]	*Mr. Lloyd-George* -	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
*Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [Dorking, Freshwater, New Tredegar, Skegness, Woking] [Lords] [248]	- - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
*Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) [Herts and Essex Water, Mid-Kent Water, Twyford (Berks) Gas] [Lords] [269]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug 2
*Ladybank Sewerage Drainage and Water Provisional Order [218]	*Mr. Sinclair* -	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
*Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 1) [140]	*Sir Edward Strachey*	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
*Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 2) [141]	*Sir Edward Strachey*	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) [Barnsley, Neath, West Ham and Wood Green] [1]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) [Birkenhead, Lincoln, Milford Haven, Shipley, and Warrington] [132]	*Dr. Macnamara*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Brumby and Frodingham, Appleby, Rugby] [133]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) [Bath, Handforth, Liverpool, Nantwich, Penryn, Pontardewe (Rural), Sheffield, South Staffordshire] [154]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) [Chester, Chorley, Fenton, Hanwell, Rochford (Rural), Scunthorpe, Thornton] [175]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) [Dunstable, West Suffolk, East Sussex, West Sussex] [176]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) [Barnstable, Coventry, Honiton, Wallasey] [178]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) [Chelmsford and Methyr Tydvil] [183]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) [Hertford, Goole Joint Hospital District, Oakengates and Dawley] [184]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) [Bradford (Yorks), Northampton, Wigan] [185]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) [Evesham, Melton Mowbray, Dewsbury, Mid Sussex] [195]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) [East Ham, Barking Town, Ilford, Sunderland] [196]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) [Norwich, London and Middlesex] [205]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) [Crediton, Portsmouth, Waltham] [206]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) [Manchester] [215]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) [Ballycastle, Bangor and Newtownwards Joint Hospital, County Down, Dalkey] [Lords] [263]	- - - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 2.
*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) [Dublin, Portrush, Fermoy] [209]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Rathdown, Monaghan, Balrothery, Belfast] [210]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 2.
*London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market) [2]	*Dr. Macnamara* -	*Royal Assent*, July 4.
*Marriages Provisional Order [4]	*Mr. Herbert Samuel* -	*Royal Assent*, July 4.
*Metropolitan Police Provisional Order [74]	*Mr. Herbert Samuel* -	*Royal Assent*, July 4.
*Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 1) [Pwllheli] [Lords] [247]	- - - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 9.
*Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) [Fleetwood, Portsmouth, Sennen] [Lords] [283]	- - - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 9.
*Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Tralee, Fenit, Wicklow] [Lords] [277]	- - - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 2.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 4) [Southwold] [Lords] [278]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 2.
*Tramways Orders Confirmation [Audenshaw, Huddersfield, Leeds, Taunton, West Ham] [Lords] [270]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 2.

BILLS COMMITTED

TO

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW, &c.

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister [10]. Reported, Mar. 19.

Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland) [14]. Reported, April 23.

Lights on Vehicles [19]. Reported, April 25.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE, &c.

Education Acts Amendment [22]. Reported, Mar. 18.

Railways (Contracts) [9]. Reported, Mar. 25.

Merchandise Marks [33]. Reported, April 15

Irish Tobacco [31]. Reported, April 17.

Coal Mines (Eight Hours) [13]. Reported, April 22.

CONFIRMATION BILLS UNDER THE PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Aberdeen Corporation Order Confirmation [Lords] [285]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 2.
*Aberdeen Harbour Order Confirmation [Lords] [ ]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Caledonian Railway Order Confirmation [224]	*Mr. Sinclair* - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Clyde Navigation Order Confirmation [ ]	*Mr. Sinclair* - -	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
*Dumbarton Burgh and County Tramways Order Confirmation [Lords] [ ]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Dumbarton Burgh Order Confirmation [Lords] [ ]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
Dundee Corporation Order Confirmation [Lords] [266]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 26.
Inverness Royal Academy Order Confirmation [ ]	*Mr. Sinclair* - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Kilmarnock Corporation Water Order Confirmation [ ]	*Mr. Sinclair* - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Lanarkshire County Council Order Confirmation [Lords] [ ]	*Mr. Sinclair* - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 28.
*Leith Burgh Order Confirmation [231] [308]	*Mr. Sinclair* - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 21.
*Oregon Mortgage Company, Limited, Order Confirmation [ ]	*Mr. Sinclair* - -	*Royal Assent*, July 4.
*Paisley Corporation Order Confirmation [ ]	*Mr. Sinclair* - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 21.
*Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation [ ]	*Mr. Sinclair* - -	*Royal Assent*, April 29.
*Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Levenhall Extension) Order Confirmation [Lords] [274]	*Mr. Sinclair* - -	*Royal Assent*, July 26.

BILLS COMMITTED TO STANDING COMMITTEES.

PURSUANT TO S. O. 47.

A.

Advertisements Regulation [81]. Reported, May 6.

Limited Partnerships [91]. Reported, May 13. Re-committed in respect of Clause 11, May 15. Reported, June 17.

Notification of Births [169]. Reported, June 3.

Public Health [66] [260]. Reported, July 29.

Municipal Elections [170]. Reported June 10.

Public Rights of Way (No. 2) [156]. Reported, June 17.

Married Women's Property [200]. Reported, June 24.

Injured Animals Act (1894) Amendment [214]. Reported, June 26.

Incest [73]. Reported, June 26.

Kingswood (Whitfield Tabernacle, Schoolroom, &c.) Charity [125]. Reported, July 3.

Leeds (South Parade Chapel) Charity [124], Reported, July 3.

Longton (Caroline Street Chapel) Charity [126]. Reported, July 3.

Board of Education (Hulme Trust Estates Educational) Confirmation [203]. Reported, July 3.

Petty Sessions Clerks (Ireland) [189]. Reported, July 15.

B.

Land Law (Ireland) Acts Amendment [12]. Committed, April 19.

*Butter and Margarine [7]. Reported, June 5.

*Probation of Offenders (No. 2) [118]. Reported, June 17.

*Released Persons (Poor Law Relief) [100]. Reported, June 17.

*Criminal Appeal [161]. Reported, July 3.

*Telegraph (Money) [232]. Reported, July 8.

*Evidence Colonial Statutes) [202]. Reported, July 8.

*Education (Administrative Provisions) [8 Reported, Aug. 6.

*Factory and Workshop [Lords] [244]. Reported, Aug. 14.

*Cabs and Stage Carriages (London) [296). Reported, Aug. 14.

C.

*Patents and Designs [121]. Reported, June 4.

*Vaccination [172]. Reported, June 18.

*Imported Watch-cases [198]. Reported, June 20.

*Small Holding and Allotments [212]. Reported, Aug. 2.

*Employers' Liability (Insurance Companies) [63]. Reported, Aug. 13.

*Companies [Lords] [208]. Reported, Aug. 15.

AS SCOTTISH BILLS.

Liquor Traffic (Local Option) (Scotland) [15]. Committed, April 26.

*Small Landholders (Scotland) [122]. Reported, July 30.

Intestate Husband's Estate (Scotland) [21]. Committed, May 3.

*Land Values (Scotland] [194]. Reported, Aug. 8.

*Sheriff Courts (Scotland) [139]. Reported, Aug. 19.

LIST OF PRIVATE BILLS AND PROCEEDINGS THEREUPON.

NOTE.—*The Bills marked thus * are Scotch Bills. The Bills marked thus † are Irish Bills. The Bills marked thus ‡ are Welsh Bills. The Bills marked thus § are not to be further proceeded with.*

NAME.	Bill read first time.	Day fixed for second reading.	Bill read second time.	Committee to which Bills are referred.	Bill reported.	Bill read third time.	Royal Assent.
*Aberdeen Corporation Electricity (Changed from "Aberdeen Corporation (Part II.) [Lords] (*Substituted Bill*)"	June 4	June 24	June 24	Group J	July 10	Aug. 2	Aug. 21
Administrative County of London and District Electric Power	Feb. 14	May 9 at a quarter past eight	Withdrawn	—	—	—	—
‡Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (Additional Capital, &c.)	Feb. 14	Mar. 13	Mar. 13	Unopposed	June 13	June 21	Aug. 28
‡Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (General Powers)	Mar. 7	Apr. 11	Apr. 11	Group 3	June 14	June 24	—
Alton Military Hospital [Lords]	July 1	July 10	July 10	Unopposed	July 18	July 22	July 26
Annfield Plain and District Gas	Feb. 14	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group A	Mar. 14	Mar. 25	Aug. 2
†Armagh Urban District Council	Feb. 14	Mar. 5 at a quarter	Mar. 5 past eight	Police, &c.	May 16	June 3	Aug. 21
Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks [Lords]	May 30	June 11	June 11	Unopposed	July 4	July 18	Aug. 2
Baines' Name [Lords]	Apr. 30	May 6	May 6	Unopposed	May 14	May 23	July 4
Barnsley, Wombwell, and Wath Tramways [Lords]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
‡Barry Railway	Feb. 28	Apr. 10	Apr. 10	Group 3	June 12	June 21	Aug. 28
Basingstoke Gas	Feb. 14	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Unopposed	Mar. 14	Apr. 8	July 4
Birkenhead Corporation Water [Lords]	June 11	July 1	July 1	Group K	July 26	Aug. 6	Aug. 9
Birmingham Corporation [Lords]	Mar. 22	Apr. 9	Apr. 9	Unopposed	May 9	May 23	July 4
Birmingham Corporation Water [Lords]	May 2	May 13	May 13	Unopposed	June 20	June 26	July 4
Borax Consolidated [Lords]	Apr. 16	Apr. 29	Apr. 29	Unopposed	May 14	May 23	July 4
Boston Spa Gas	Mar. 7	Mar. 18	Mar. 18	Unopposed	Apr. 18	Apr. 30	July 4
‡Brecon and Merthyr Tydvil Junction Railway	Feb. 14	Apr. 12	Apr. 12	Unopposed	Apr. 25	May 7	July 4
Brighouse Corporation	Feb. 14	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c.	Apr. 23	May 3	July 26
Bristol Corporation	Feb. 14	M 13	Mar. 13	Unopposed	Apr. 25	May 6	July 4

NAME.	Bill read first time.	Day fixed for second reading.	Bill read second time.	Committee to which Bills are referred.	Bill reported.	Bill read third time.	Royal Assent.
Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water [Lords] -	July 1	July 16	July 16	Unopposed	July 25	Aug. 5	Aug. 9
Brockenhurst Gas - - - - - - - - - -	Feb. 14	Feb. 22	Feb. 22	Unopposed	Mar. 22	Apr. 11	July 4
*Buckhaven Docks [Lords] (*Substituted Bill*) - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bude Gas - - - - - - - - - - - -	Feb. 14	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Unopposed	Mar. 14	Mar. 26	July 26
Burnham (Somerset) Pier [Lords] - - - - - - -	Apr. 17	May 6	May 6	Unopposed	June 27	July 5	July 26
Burnley Corporation - - - - - - - - - -	Mar. 22	Mar. 27	Mar. 27	Unopposed	Apr. 25	May 3	July 4
Byrne's Divorce [Lords] - - - - - - - - -	Mar. 22	Mar. 27	Mar. 27	Divorce	Apr. 11	Apr. 15	Apr. 29
‡Cardiff Railway - - - - - - - - - - -	Feb. 14	May 7	Withdrawn.	—	—	—	—
†Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways [Lords] - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central London Railway - - - - - - - - -	Feb. 14	May 6 at a quarter	May 6 past eight	Unopposed	May 30	June 27	July 26
Channel Tunnel Railway - - - - - - - - -	Feb. 14	Apr. 25 at a quarter past eight	Withdrawn.	—	—	—	—
City of London (Union of Parishes) [Lords] - - - - -	July 9	July 17	July 17	Group K	July 30	Aug. 9	Aug. 21
†Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers - -	Mar. 22	Apr. 10	Apr. 10	Group 2	May 9	May 16	Aug. 9
Colne Valley Water [Lords] - - - - - - - -	June 27	July 8	July 8	Group K	July 23	Aug. 15	Aug. 21
Coventry Corporation Water [Lords] - - - - - -	May 29	June 24	June 24	Group J	July 5	July 25	Aug. 2
Devonport Corporation [Lords] - - - - - - - -	Apr. 17	Apr. 29	Apr. 29	Police, &c.	June 18	July 15	July 26
*Electric Supply Corporation (No. 1) [Lords] - - - } *Electric Supply Corporation (No. 2) [Lords] (*Substituted Bill*) } Consolidated into	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Electric Supply Corporation [Lords] - - - - - - -	June 11	July 8	July 8	Unopposed	July 18	July 22	July 26
Falmouth Gas - - - - - - - - - - - -	Feb. 14	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Unopposed	Mar. 14	Mar. 26	July 4
FitzGerald's Divorce [Lords] - - - - - - - - -	Mar. 7	Mar. 22	Mar. 22	Divorce	Apr. 11	July 8	July 26
Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways [Lords] - -	Mar. 19	Apr. 8	Apr. 8	Unopposed	Apr. 25	May 16	July 4
Galwey's Divorce [Lords] - - - - - - - - - -	Mar. 7	Mar. 13	Mar. 13	Divorce	Apr. 11	Apr. 15	Apr. 29
Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) - - -	Feb. 14	Mar. 5	Mar. 5	Unopposed	Mar. 14	Mar. 22	July 4
*General Accident, Fire, and Life Assurance Corporation [Lords] (*Substituted Bill*) - - - - - - -	May 29	June 11	June 11	Group J	July 27	July 1	July 4
*Glasgow Corporation [Lords] (*Substituted Bill*) - - - -	June 11	June 24	June 24	Police, &c.	Aug. 7	Aug. 15	Aug. 21
Grays and Tilbury Gas - - - - - - - - - -	Feb. 14	Mar. 12	Mar. 12	Unopposed	Apr. 18	Apr. 30	July 4
Great Central Railway - - - - - - - - -	Feb. 14	Mar. 13	Mar. 13	Group 5	May 2	May 29	July 26

Great Northern and City Railway	Feb. 14	Mar. 7 at a quarter	Mar. 7 past eight	Group 4	Apr. 19	May 9	July 26
‡Great Western, London and North Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies	Feb. 14	Mar. 19 at a quarter	Mar. 19 past eight	Group 3	June 10	Preamble	not proved.
Great Yarmouth Port and Haven	Feb. 14	Apr. 11	Apr. 11	Group E	Apr. 19	May 7	July 4
Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas [Lords]	May 13	May 28	May 28	Group H	July 9	July 18	July 26
Harrison's Patent [Lords]	May 29	June 11	June 11	Unopposed	June 20	June 24	July 4
Heywood and Middleton Water Board [Lords]	May 29	June 11	June 11	Unopposed	June 27	July 8	July 26
Hull and Barnsley Railway	Feb. 14	Feb. 25	Feb. 25	Group 1	Mar. 20	Apr. 11	July 26
Humber Conservancy [Lords]	Apr. 16	July 2 at a quarter	July 2 past eight	Group G	July 15	July 25	Aug. 2
Kendal Corporation [Lords]	May 7	May 23	May 23	Unopposed	June 27	July 11	July 26
Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation) [Lords]	May 14	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	July 11	July 23	Aug. 2
Keswick Urban District Council (Water)	Feb. 14	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group B	Mar. 26	Apr. 12	July 4
Killery's Divorce [Lords]	July 1	July 8	July 8	Divorce	July 16	July 19	July 26
King Edward's Hospital Fund for London [Lords]	Apr. 30	May 13	May 13	Unopposed	June 13	July 5	July 26
King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council	Feb. 14	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c.	May 9	May 27	July 26
Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation	Feb. 14	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c.	Apr. 17	May 16	Aug. 2
Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway	Feb. 14	Apr. 23 at a quarter	Apr. 23 past eight	Group 5	May 8	May 23	Aug. 9
Leeds Corporation	Feb. 14	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Unopposed	May 9	May 23	July 26
*Leith Harbour and Docks (Clause 34) (*Substituted Bill*)	Mar. 11	May 7	Withdrawn	—	—	—	—
Linthwaite and Golcar Urban District Councils [Lords]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
‡Llandrindod Wells Gas	Feb. 14	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Unopposed	Mar. 14	Mar. 22	Aug. 21
London and North Western Railway	Feb. 14	Apr. 25 at a quarter	Apr. 25 past eight	Group 5	May 13	May 27	July 26
London and North Western Railway (Superannuation Fund)	Feb. 14	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Unopposed	Mar. 14	Apr. 29	July 4
London County Council (Electric Supply)	Feb. 14	May 27 at a quarter	May 27 past eight	Select	June 26	Preamble	not proved.
London County Council (General Powers)	Feb. 14	Apr. 15 at a quarter	Apr. 15 past eight	Police, &c.	June 12	July 15	Aug. 28
London County Council (Money)	Apr. 16	Apr. 30	Apr. 30	Unopposed	May 9	June 11 at a quarter past eight	Aug. 21
London County Council (Tramways and Improvements)	Mar. 14	Mar. 19	Mar. 19	Group 6	Apr. 29	May 23	Aug. 21
London Electric Supply	Feb. 14	Aug. 7 at a quarter past eight	Withdrawn	—	—	—	—
London Port and Docks	Feb. 14	Apr. 25	Withdrawn		—	—	—
London United Tramways	Feb. 14	Apr. 8	Apr. 8	Unopposed	May 14	May 27	July 26

NAME.	Bill read first time.	Day fixed for second reading.	Bill read second time.	Committee to which Bills are referred.	Bill reported.	Bill read third time.	Royal Assent.
Lower Thames Tunnel Railways	Feb. 14	June 13	June 13	Withdrawn	—	—	—
Maidstone Gas	Feb. 14	Feb. 25	Feb. 25	Unopposed	Mar. 22	Apr. 11	July 4
Manchester Corporation Tramways [Lords]	Apr. 16	May 6	May 6	Unopposed	July 18	July 29	Aug. 2
Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal) [Lords]	Apr. 16	Apr. 29	Apr. 29	Unopposed	May 9	May 23	July 4
Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) [Lords]	Mar. 19	Apr. 22	Apr. 22	Group F	June 5	June 14	July 4
Medway Lower Navigation [Lords]	Mar. 20	Apr. 8	Apr. 8	Unopposed	Apr. 18	Apr. 22	July 4
Mersey Docks and Harbour Board	Feb. 14	May 7	Withdrawn.	—	—	—	—
‡Merthyr Tydvil Stipendiary Justice [Lords]	June 18	July 1	July 1	Group G	July 22	Aug. 1	Aug. 9
Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund) [Lords]	May 7	May 23	May 23	Unopposed	June 6	June 17	July 4
Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, &c.)	Feb. 14	Feb. 28 at a quarter	Feb. 28 past eight	Joint Committee of Lords and Commons.	June 26	Aug. 9	Aug. 28
Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers)	Feb. 14	Feb. 20	Feb. 20	Joint Committee of Lords and Commons.	June 26	July 29	Aug. 28
Middlesbrough Corporation [Lords]	Apr. 17	Apr. 29	Apr. 29	Unopposed	May 9	May 30	July 4
Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees, and Thornaby Tramways [Lords]	June 18	July 1	July 1	Unopposed	July 18	July 26	Aug. 2
Midland Railway [Lords]	May 29	July 18 at a quarter	July 18 past eight	Unopposed	July 25	Aug. 2	Aug. 9
Midland Railway (West Riding Lines) Abandonment [Lords]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mitcham and Wimbledon District Gas	Feb. 14	Mar. 5	Mar. 5	Group A	Mar. 20	Apr. 8	July 4
†Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway	Feb. 14	Apr. 29	Apr. 29	Group 2	May 6	Parties do	not proceed.
Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) [Lords]	June 4	June 11	June 11	Divorce	June 19	June 24	July 4
National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty [Lords]	June 11	June 24	June 24	Unopposed	July 25	Aug. 28	Aug. 21
‡Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway	Feb. 14	Mar. 5	Mar. 5	Group 2	Apr. 10	Apr. 23	Aug. 21
Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation [Lords]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newquay and District Water [Lords]	Mar. 19	Apr. 8	Apr. 8	Unopposed	May 14	May 27	July 4
*North British Railway (*Substituted Bill*) [Lords]	May 29	July 4	July 4	Group 8	July 17	July 29	Aug. 2
North Eastern and Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways	Feb. 14	Feb. 27	Feb. 27	Group 5	Apr. 18	Parties do	not proceed.
North East London Railway	Feb. 14	Mar. 4	Mar. 4	Unopposed	Apr. 18	Apr. 29	July 4
North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply	Feb. 14	June 11 at a quarter	June 11 past eight	Group H	June 20	June 28	Aug. 2

North Staffordshire Railway	Feb. 14	Mar. 4	Mar. 4	Unopposed	Mar. 14	June 24 at a quarter past eight	Aug. 21
Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation [Lords]	May 13	June 11	June 11	Group J	June 27	July 1	July 4
‡Ogmore and Garw Urban District Council (Water Supply, etc.) [Lords]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oxford and District Tramways [Lords]	Apr. 22	June 24	June 24	Unopposed	July 11	Aug. 12	Aug. 21
Paisley Children Legitimisation [Lords]	June 24	July 8	July 8	Unopposed	July 18	July 26	Aug. 2
Penrith Urban District Council	Feb. 14	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c.	May 10	May 27	July 26
Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment)	Feb. 14	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Unopposed	Mar. 22	Apr. 9	July 4
‡Pontypridd Urban District Council [Lords]	May 29	June 11	June 11	Unopposed	July 4	July 12	July 26
Portishead District Water [Lords]	July 2	July 15	July 15	Unopposed	July 25	Aug. 2	Aug. 9
‡Port Talbot Railway and Docks	Feb. 14	Apr. 10	Apr. 10	Unopposed	Apr. 18	Apr. 29	July 4
Rawtenstall Corporation	Feb. 28	Mar. 8	Mar. 8	Police, &c.	Apr. 11	Apr. 25	July 26
*Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water [Lords] (*Substituted Bill*)	June 5	June 17	June 17	Group J	July 16	Aug. 13	Aug. 21
Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply	Feb. 14	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Group B	Mar. 26	Apr. 18	Aug. 2
*Royal Bank of Scotland [Lords] (*Substituted Bill*)	Apr. 30	May 13	May 13	Unopposed	May 30	June 3	July 4
Royal Insurance Company [Lords]	Mar. 19	Apr. 8	Apr. 8	Unopposed	Apr. 18	Apr. 22	Apr. 29
St. Neot's Urban District Council [Lords]	May 14	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	June 13	June 24	July 4
Selsey Water [Lords] (Changed from "Selsey Water and Gas [Lords]")	May 13	June 11	June 11	Unopposed	July 18	Aug. 1	Aug. 9
Shanklin Gas	Feb. 14	Feb. 27	Feb. 27	Unopposed	Apr. 18	May 3	July 4
Sheffield Corporation [Lords]	June 11	June 24	June 24	Police, &c.	July 3	July 22	Aug. 2
Simon Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company, Limited [Lords]	May 15	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	June 6	June 17	July 4
Society of Apothecaries of London [Lords]	Apr. 16	Apr. 29	Apr. 29	Unopposed	May 30	June 3	July 4
South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways	Feb. 28	Mar. 11	Mar. 11	Unopposed	Apr. 18	Apr. 29	July 4
Southend-on-Sea Corporation [Lords]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southend Water [Lords]	May 1	May 13	May 13	Group F	June 5	July 4	July 26
South Lincolnshire Water [Lords]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board [Lords]	May 13	June 3	June 3	Group H	June 21	July 4	July 26
‡South Wales Mineral Railway	Feb. 14	Mar. 25	Mar. 25	Group 2	Apr. 11	Apr. 19	Aug. 2
Staveley Coal and Iron Company [Lords]	Apr. 16	Apr. 29	Apr. 29	Unopposed	May 9	May 13	July 4
Sunderland Corporation	Feb. 14	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c.	June 7	June 17	Aug. 2
Sutton Coldfield Rectory [Lords]	May 7	May 24	May 24	Unopposed	June 13	June 25	July 4
‡Swansea Harbour	Feb. 14	Mar. 5	Mar. 5	Group E.	Apr. 17	Apr. 30	Aug. 21
‡Taff Vale Railway	Feb. 14	Apr. 10	Apr. 10	Group 2	Apr. 17	Apr. 26	July 4
Tees Conservancy [Lords]	Apr. 17	Apr. 29	Apr. 29	Unopposed (Recommitted)	May 14 July 11	July 29	Aug. 2

NAME.	Bill read first time.	Day fixed for second reading.	Bill read second time.	Committee to which Bills are referred.	Bill reported.	Bill read third time.	Royal Assent
Tees Valley Water (Consolidation) [Lords]	May 7	May 23	May 23	Group H	July 3	July 15	July 26
Tyne Improvement [Lords]	Apr. 22	May 14	May 14	Unopposed	May 30	June 10	July 4
Tynemouth Corporation (Water) [Lords]	May 14	June 24	June 24	Unopposed	July 9	July 23	Aug. 2
United Methodist Church [Lords]	May 13	June 12	June 12	Select.	July 4	July 12	July 26
Watford and Edgware Railway	Feb. 14	Mar. 25	Mar. 25	Group 5	Apr. 24	Preamble	not proved.
Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board [Lords]	May 7	May 23	May 23	Unopposed	July 25	Aug. 5	Aug. 9
Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier [Lords]	Apr. 16	Apr. 29	Apr. 29	Unopposed	May 9	May 13	July 4
West Riding Tramways [Lords]	Mar. 19	Apr. 8	Apr. 8	Unopposed	Apr. 18	Apr. 25	July 4
West Yorkshire Tramways [Lords]	Mar. 19	Apr. 8	Apr. 8	Unopposed	Apr. 25	May 23	July 4
Wisbech Water [Lords]	June 4	June 17	June 17	Unopposed	June 27	July 11	July 26
Worthing Gas	Feb. 14	March 4	Mar. 4	Group B	Mar. 26	May 2	July 26
York and District Tramways [Lords]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
York (Micklegate Strays) [Lords]	June 24	July 18	July 18	Unopposed (Recommitted to Select Committee)	July 25 Aug. 19	Aug. 21	Aug. 28

LIST OF RULES, ORDERS, &c.

WHICH HAVE BEEN PRESENTED DURING THE SESSION, AND ARE REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO LIE FOR AN APPOINTED NUMBER OF DAYS UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of Orders made by the Councils of the Boroughs of Beverley, Bacup, and Wallsend, of the County Borough of West Hartlepool, of the Councils of the counties of Glamorgan, Lancaster, and of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	12 February	40 days.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of Orders made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the early closing of certain Shops in the burgh of Rutherglen [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	12 February	40 days.
Public Records (King's Bench (Crown Side),—Copy of Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents belonging to the Crown Side of the late Court of King's Bench and the present King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [40 and 41 Vic., c. 55, s. 1]	12 February	4 weeks.
Factory and Workshop Acts (Dangerous and Unhealthy Industries),—Copy of Regulations, dated 21st January, 1907, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 79 of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for the manufacture of Paints and Colours [1 Edw. VII., c. 22, s. 84]	13 February	40 days.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of Orders made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	13 February	40 days.
New South Wales,—Copy of the Parliamentary Elections Act (No. 41) [13 and 14 Vic., c. 59, s. 2]	15 February	30 days.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Borough [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	18 February	40 days.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Public Records (Inland Revenue Department),—Copy of Second Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents in the Department of the Inland Revenue which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [40 and 41 Vic., c. 55, s. 1]	18 February	4 weeks.
Board of Education,—Copy of Draft Order in Council continuing certain provisions contained in the Order in Council of 6th March, 1902 [62 and 63 Vic., c. 33, s. 5]	19 February	4 weeks.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the Urban District of Chadderton, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the urban district [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	20 February	40 days.
Board of Education,—Copy of Draft Order in Council amending the Order of the 7th August, 1900, providing for the establishment of a Consultative Committee [62 and 63 Vic., c. 33, s. 5]	21 February	4 weeks.
Intermediate Education [Ireland],—Copy of Time Table of Examinations for 1907 [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	22 February	40 days.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the City of Cardiff, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Riverside and Canton Wards of the City [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)	28 February	40 days.
Army,—Copy of Draft Order in Council declaring what is requisite to entitle a Volunteer or Volunteer Engineer Corps, Volunteer Divisions of Submarine Miners, and Volunteer Electrical Engineers to be deemed an efficient Volunteer [26 and 27 Vic., c. 65, s. 11]	2 March	One lunar month.
Education (Scotland) (Code 1907),—Copy of Code of Regulations for Day Schools, with Appendices, by the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education in Scotland [35 and 36 Vic., c. 62, s. 67]	11 March	One month.
Education (Scotland),—Copy of Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, dated 9th March, 1907, providing for the distribution of the General Aid Grant [35 and 36 Vic., c. 62, s. 67]	11 March	One month.
Education (Scotland),—Copy of Regulations for the preliminary education, training, and certification of teachers for various grades of schools [35 and 36 Vic., c. 62, s. 67]	12 March	One month.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the Borough of Newport (Isle of Wight), and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Borough [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	12 March	40 days.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the County of Lancaster, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Urban Districts of Royton, Failsworth, Crompton, Lees, Littleborough, and Milnrow [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	14 March	40 days.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of Orders made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the Early Closing of certain Shops in the Burgh of Leith [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	18 March	40 days.
Public Records, High Court of Justice (King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer)—Copy of Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents belonging to the late Courts of King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer, and the succeeding King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer Divisions of the High Court of Justice, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [40 and 41 Vic., c. 55, s. 1]	19 March	4 weeks.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the Borough of Jarrow, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the borough [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	20 March	40 days.
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford),—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of Oriel College, Oxford, on the 11th October, 1906 (and sealed on the 29th November, 1906) amending Statute VI., Clause 5, of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 49]	20 March	12 weeks.
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford),—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of University College, Oxford, on the 1st December, 1906 (and sealed on the 7th December, 1906) amending Statute III., Clause 11, of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 49]	20 March	12 weeks.
Court of Session (Scotland) Act, 1868,—Copy of Act of Sederunt to regulate Procedure in the Court of Session [31 and 32 Vic., c. 100, s. 106]	2? March	36 days.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Orders made by the Council of the Borough of Ipswich and the Urban District of Wallasey, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	11 April	40 days.
Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889 (Ordinance),—Copy of University Court Ordinance No. XIX. (Glasgow, No. 5) (Foundation of James S. Dixon Chair of Mining) [52 and 53 Vic., c. 55, s. 20]	17 April	12 weeks
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the County of Glamorgan, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Aber, Town, and Ystrad Mynach Wards of the Caerphilly Urban District [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	22 April	40 days.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the County Borough of Swansea, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the County Borough [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	24 April	40 days.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Urban Council of Acton, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the District [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	29 April	40 days.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of Orders made by the Council of the City of Manchester, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within a certain part of the City [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	2 May	40 days.
College Charter Act, 1871 (College of Science at South Kensington),—Copy of Application received from the Board of Education for the establishment of a College of Science and Technology at South Kensington, referred by His Majesty in Council for the Consideration and Report of a Committee of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council; together with a Copy of the Draft of the Charter applied for [34 and 35 Vic., c. 73, s. 2]	7 May	30 days.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the County of Lancaster, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Clayton-le-Moors, Oswaldtwistle, and Church Urban Districts [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	9 May	40 days.
Education (Scotland) (Continuation Classes),—Copy of Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes providing further Instruction for those who have left School, 1906 [35 and 36 Vic., c. 62, s. 67]	13 May	One month.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Orders made by the Council of the Borough of Accrington, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Borough [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	1 May	40 days.
Factory and Workshop Acts (Homework),—Copy of Order made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 23rd May, 1907, applying to certain classes of work the provisions of Sections 107, 108, and 110 of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and revoking the Order of the 15th August, 1905 [1 Edw. VII., c. 22, s. 126 (3)]	28 May	40 days.
Factory and Workshop Acts (Particulars of Piece Work Wages),—Copies of Two Orders made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 23rd May, 1907, applying with modifications the provisions of Section 116 of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, to Non-textile Factories and Workshops in which certain classes of industries are carried on, and to Outworkers employed in those industries [1 Edw. VII., c. 22, s. 126 (3)]	28 May.	40 days.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899 (Retreats),—Copy of Rules and Regulations, dated 28th February, 1907, for Retreats licensed under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899 [61 and 62 Vic., c. 60, s. 21 (1)]	31 May.	4 weeks.
Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889 (Ordinance),—Copy of University Court Ordinance No. XX. (Edinburgh, No. 8) Regulations of the Degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy [52 and 53 Vic., c. 55, s. 20]	3 June	12 weeks.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the Early Closing of Shops in the Parish of Cathcart (County of Renfrew) [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	3 June	40 days.
Intermediate Education (Ireland),—Copy of Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland appointing the places at which the Examinations for 1907 shall be held [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	3 June	40 days.
Intermediate Education (Ireland),—Copy of Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland determining the number of Central Superintendents to conduct the Examinations in 1907 [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	3 June	40 days.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the County of Glamorgan, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Blaengarw, Pontycymmer, Bettws, and Pontyrhil Wards of the Ogmore and Garw Urban District [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	14 June	40 days.
Board of Education,—Copy of the Building Regulations of the Board of Education for Public Elementary Schools [33 and 34 Vic., c. 75, s. 97]	19 June	One month.
Board of Education,—Copy of Draft Order in Council continuing certain provisions contained in the Order in Council of 6th March, 1902 [62 and 63 Vic., c. 33, s. 5]	21 June	4 weeks.
Prisons (England and Wales),—Copy of Draft Rules proposed to be made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department under the Prisons Acts, 1877 and 1898, with respect to remissions and punishments [61 and 62 Vic., c. 41, s. 2]	25 June	30 sitting days
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the Borough of Newport (Mon.), and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain Shops within the Borough [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	25 June	40 days.
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877, (Cambridge),—Copy of Statutes made by the Governing Body of Emanuel College, Cambridge, on 7th March, 1907, amending certain of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 49]	26 June	12 weeks.
Board of Education (Code, 1907),—Copy of Code of Regulations for Public Elementary Schools, with Schedules, by the Board of Education [33 and 34 Vic., c. 75, s. 97]	1 July	One month.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Sea Fisheries Regulation Act, 1888,—Copy of Order made by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, under the provisions of the said Act, for the variation of an Order for creating the Eastern Sea Fisheries District [51 and 52 Vic., c. 54, s. 1 (4)]	3 July	30 days.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the County of Somerset, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Parish of Twerton [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	3 July	40 days.
Public Trustees Rules, 1907 [6 Edw. VII., c. 55, s. 14 (2)]	31 July	30 days.
Supreme Court (Rules),—Copy of Rules of the Supreme Court, dated 3rd August, 1907 [39 and 40 Vic., c. 59, s. 17]	2 August	40 days.
Factory and Workshop Acts (Dangerous and Unhealthy Industries),—Copy of Regulations made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for the process of heading of Yarn dyed by means of a lead compound [1 Edw. VII., c. 22, s. 84]	14 August	40 days

NOTICE OF MOTION

WHICH NOW STANDS IN THE ORDER BOOK OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS FOR THE NEXT SESSION.

Sir Randal Cremer,—House of Lords (Veto),—That the power now possessed and frequently exercised by the House of Lords to Veto Measures adopted by the House of Commons should be limited to one Session of Parliament.

PUBLIC BILLS.

RETURN "of the Number of PUBLIC BILLS, distinguishing Government from other Bills, introduced into this House, or brought from the House of Lords, during the Session of 1907; showing the Number which received the Royal Assent; the Number which were Passed by this House, but not by the House of Lords; the Number Passed by the House of Lords, but not by this House; and distinguishing the Stages at which such Bills as did not receive the Royal Assent were Dropped or Postponed and Rejected in either House of Parliament (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0.209, of Session 1906)."

[SESSION OF 1907.]

BILLS WHICH RECEIVED THE ROYAL ASSENT.

N.B.—Bills marked thus (*) are Government Bills.

TITLE OF BILL.

Advertisements Regulation.
*Army (Annual).
*Australian States Constitution.
Board of Education Scheme (Hulme Trust Estates Educational Confirmation).
*British North America.
*Butter and Margarine.
*Cabs and State Carriages (London).
*Companies [*Lords*].
*Consolidated Fund (Appropriation).
*Consolidated Fund (No. 1).
*Council of India.
*Criminal Appeal.
*Destructive Insects and Pests [*Lords*].
*Education (Administrative Provisions).
*Employment of Women [*Lords*].
*Employers' Liability Insurance Companies).
*Evicted Tenants (Ireland).
*Evidence (Colonial Statutes).
*Expiring Laws Continuance.
*Factory and Workshop [*Lords*].
*Finance.
*Imported Watch-cases.
Injured Animals Act (1894) Amendment.
*Irish Land (No. 2).
Irish Tobacco.
*Isle of Man Customs.
*Judicature (Ireland).
Kingswood (Whitfield Tabernacle, School-room, &c.) Charity.
Leeds (South Parade Chapel) Charity.
Lights on Vehicles.
Limited Partnerships.
Longton (Caroline Street) Charity.

TITLE OF BILL.

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister.
Married Women's Property.
*Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment [*Lords*].
*Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Deduction for Propelling Power).
Notification of Births.
*Patents and Designs.
*Patents and Designs (Consolidation).
Petty Sessions Clerks (Ireland).
*Post Office Sites.
*Prisons (Ireland).
*Prize Courts [*Lords*].
*Probation of Offenders (No. 2).
Public Health.
*Public Health (Regulations as to Food).
Public Health (Scotland) Amendments [*Lords*].
*Public Works Loans.
*Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils) [Lords].
*Qualification of Women (County and Town Councils) (Scotland) [*Lords*].
*Released Persons (Poor Law Relief).
*Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries [Lords].
*Sea Fisheries (Scotland) (Application of Penalties).
*Sheriff's Courts (Scotland).
*Small Holdings and Allotments.
*Telegraph (Money).
*Territorial and Reserve Forces.
*Transvaal Loan (Guarantee).
*Vaccination.
*Vaccination (Scotland) [*Lords*].
*Whale Fisheries (Scotland).

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS WHICH RECEIVED THE ROYAL ASSENT.

Provisional Orders when reported not confirmed or not proceeded with are printed in italics.

TITLE OF BILL.

*Canal Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation [*Lords*].

*Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation [London] (No. 1) [*Lords*].

*Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation [London] (No. 2) [*Lords*].

*Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, &c.) [*Lords*].

*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) [Aston Manor, Chesham, Hipperholme, Lytham, Newark, Penrith, Pontefract, Stockport] [*Lords*].

*Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2) [Cork] [Lords].

*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Castleford, Egham, Formby, Grimsby, Liversedge, Maldens and Coombe, Mansfield, Paignton, Selby, Stoke-upon-Trent [*Lords*].

*Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 4) [Arbroth] [*Lords*].

*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) [Minehead and Dunster, Rhymney Valley, St. Albans].

*Gas and Water Orders Confirmation No. (1) [Dorking, Freshwater, New Tredegar, Skegness, Woking] [*Lords*].

*Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) [Herts and Essex Water, Mid-Kent Water Twyford (Berks) Gas] [*Lords*].

*Ladybank Sewerage, Drainage and Water Provisional Order.

*Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 1).

*Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 2).

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) [Barnsley, Neath, West Ham, and Wood Green].

*Local Government Provisional Orders No. 2) [Birkenhead, Lincoln, Milford Haven, Shipley, and Warrington].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Brumby and Frodingham, Appleby, Rugby].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) [Bath, Handforth, Liverpool, Nantwich, Penryn, Pontardawe (Rural), Sheffield, South Staffordshire].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) [Chester, Chorley, Fenton, Hanwell, Rochford (Rural), Scunthorpe, Thornton].

TITLE OF BILL.

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) [Dunstable, West Suffolk, East Sussex, West Sussex].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) [Barnstaple, Coventry, Honiton, Wallasey].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) [Chelmsford and Merthyr Tydfil].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) [Hertford, Goole Joint Hospital District] Oakengates, and Dawley].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) [Bradford (Yorks) Northampton, Wigan].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11 [Evesham, Melton Mowbray, Dewsbury, Mid-Sussex].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) [East Ham, Barking Town, Ilford, Sunderland].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) [Norwich, London, and Middlesex].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) [Crediton, Portsmouth, Waltham].

*Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) [Manchester].

*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) [Ballycastle, Bangor and Newtownwards Joint Hospital, County Down, Dalkey] [Lords].

*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Dublin, Portrush, Fermoy].

*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Rathdown, Monaghan Balrothery, Belfast].

*London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market).

*Marriage Provisional Order.

*Metropolitan Police Provisional Order.

*Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 1.) [Pwllheli].

*Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) [Fleetwood, Portsmouth, Sennen] [*Lords*].

*Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Tralee, Fenit, Wicklow] [*Lords*].

*Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 4) Southwold [*Lords*].

*Tramways Orders Confirmation [Audenshaw Huddersfield, Leeds, Taunton, West Ham] [*Lords*],

CONFIRMATION BILLS UNDER THE PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899, WHICH RECEIVED THE ROYAL ASSENT.

TITLE OF BILL.

*Aberdeen Corporation Order Confirmation [*Lords*].

*Aberdeen Harbour Order Confirmation [*Lords*].

*Caledonian Railway Order Confirmation.

*Clyde Navigation Order Confirmation.

*Dumbarton Burgh and County Tramways Order Confirmation [*Lords*].

*Dumbarton Burgh Order Confirmation [*Lords*].

*Dundee Corporation Order Confirmation [*Lords*].

*Inverness Board Academy Order Confirmation.

TITLE OF BILL.

*Kilmarnock Corporation Water Order Confirmation.

*Lanarkshire County Council Order Confirmation [*Lords*].

*Leith Burgh Order Confirmation.

*Oregon Mortgage Company, Limited, Order Confirmation.

*Paisley Corporation Order Confirmation.

*Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation.

*Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Levenhall Extensions) Order Confirmation [*Lords*].

Government Bills, 47 ; Provisional Order and Confirmation Bills, 55 ; other Bills, 14 ;
TOTAL - - 116

BILLS WHICH WERE INTRODUCED INTO, BUT NOT PASSED BY, THE COMMONS.

Those marked thus (*) are Government Bills.

TITLE OF BILL.	Stages at which they were DROPPED, POSTPONED, or REJECTED, &c.
Absent Voters - - - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Adult (Women and Men) Enfranchisement -	Second Reading dropped.
Aged Pensioners - - - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Agricultural Education in Elementary Schools.	Second Reading dropped.
Ballot Act (1872) Amendment - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Bankruptcy (Scotland) - - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Blind (Technical Education, etc.) - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Building Lands (Scotland) - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Character Note - - - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Church Discipline - - - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Civil Bill Courts (Dublin) - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Clerks of the Peace and County Council -	Second Reading dropped.
Coal Mines (Eight Hours) - - - -	Consideration dropped.
*Coal Mines (Eight Hours) (No. 2) - - -	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Coal Mines Regulation - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Compulsory Weighing and Measurements -	Committee dropped.
Conveyancing - - - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.

SESS. 1907.—Bills which were Introduced into, but not Passed by, the Commons—*cont.*

TITLE OF BILL.	Stages at which they were DROPPED, POSTPONED, or REJECTED, &c.
Convicts' Divorce	Second Reading dropped.
Coroners	Second Reading dropped.
Coroners' Inquests (Railway Fatalities)	Second Reading dropped.
Corporal Punishment (Restriction)	Second Reading dropped.
Credit Banks	Second Reading dropped.
*Criminal Procedure and Summary Jurisdiction (Scotland).	Order for Second Reading dropped.
Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts Amendment.	Second Reading dropped.
Crofters (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Diseases of Animals Act (1896) Amendment	Second Reading dropped.
Dogs (Injuries to Persons)	Second Reading dropped.
Dogs (Protection)	Second Reading dropped.
*Dublin Metropolitan Police	Second Reading dropped.
Ecclesiastical Disorders	Second Reading dropped.
Education	Second Reading dropped.
Education Acts Amendment	Adjourned Debate on Third Reading dropped.
Education (England and Wales)	Second Reading dropped.
Education of Afflicted Children (Ireland)	Second Reading dropped.
Education (Popular Control)	Second Reading dropped.
Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland)	Consideration as amended by the Standing Committee dropped.
*Education (Scotland)	Order for Second Reading discharged.
*Education (Special Religious Instruction)	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Eight Hours	Second Reading dropped.
Employment of British Subjects Abroad	Second Reading dropped.
Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge)	Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Factory and Workshop Act (1901) Amendment.	Second Reading dropped.
Factory and Workshop Act (1901) Amendment (No. 2).	Second Reading dropped.
Factory and Workshop Act (1901) Amendment (No. 3).	Second Reading dropped.
Ferries (Ireland)	Second Reading dropped.
Fens and Building Leases (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Financial and Commercial Gambling	Second Reading dropped.
Fisheries (Ireland)	Second Reading dropped.
Foreign Trawlers (Regulation)	Second Reading dropped.
Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities.	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities No. 2).	Second Reading dropped.
Fruit Growers (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Grocers' Licences (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Harbour Authorities (Ireland)	Second Reading dropped.
Home Work	Second Reading dropped.
Home Work Regulation	Second Reading dropped.
Hours of Labour (Bakehouses)	Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
House of Lords (Restriction of Powers)	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Housing of the Working Classes, &c.	Second Reading dropped.
Housing of the Working Classes Acts Amendment.	Second Reading dropped.
Incest	Consideration as amended by the Standing Committee dropped.
Infant Life Protection	Second Reading dropped.
Intestate Husband's Estate (Scotland)	Committed to a Standing Committee.
*Irish Council	Order for Second Reading discharged.

SESS. 1907.—Bills which were Introduced into, but not Passed by, the Commons—*cont.*

TITLE OF BILL.	Stages at which they were DROPPED, POSTPONED, or REJECTED, &c.
Irish Land	Second Reading dropped.
Irish National Schools Heating	Second Reading dropped.
Jurors' Expenses	Second Reading dropped.
Justices of the Peace	Second Reading dropped.
Land Law (Ireland) Acts Amendment	Committed to a Standing Committee.
Larceny	Second Reading dropped.
Leasehold Enfranchisement	Second Reading dropped.
Licensed Premises (Election Days) Closing	Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Licensing (Scotland) Amendment	Second Reading dropped.
Liquor Traffic (Local Option) (Scotland)	Committed to a Standing Committee.
Liquor Traffic (Local Veto)	Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Local Authorities' Officers	Second Reading dropped.
Local Authorities (Taxation and Purchase of Land).	Second Reading dropped.
*Local Registration of Title (Ireland)	Order for Second Reading discharged.
London Municipal Elections (Hours of Poll)	Second Reading dropped.
Lunacy (Ireland)	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Merchandise Marks	Consideration as amended by the Standing Committee dropped.
Monastic and Conventual Institutions	Second Reading dropped.
Mortgage of Premises	Second Reading dropped.
Motor Car (Collisions and Accidents)	Second Reading dropped.
Municipal Elections	Third Reading dropped.
*Municipal Milk Deptôs	Order for Second Reading discharged.
*Naval Lands (Volunteers)	Order for Second Reading discharged.
*Navigation Works (Ireland)	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Nurses and Private Nursing Homes (Registration).	Second Reading dropped.
Nurses' Registration	Second Reading dropped.
Old Age Pensions	Committee dropped.
Open Spaces (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Outdoor Relief (Pensioners)	Second Reading dropped.
Parliamentary Elections (Hours of Poll)	Second Reading dropped.
Parliamentary Voters (Registration)	Second Reading dropped.
Parochial Medical Officers (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Patents and Designs (No. 2)	Second Reading dropped.
Pedlars Acts Amendment	Second Reading dropped.
Pharmacy	Second Reading dropped.
*Poisons and Pharmacy	Order for Second Reading discharged
Police (Superannuation)	Second Reading dropped.
Police (Superannuation) (Scotland)	Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Political Pensions	Committee progress dropped.
Poor Law (Scotland) Amendment	Second Reading dropped.
Prevention of Cruelty to Children	Second Reading dropped.
Primogeniture	Second Reading dropped.
Probation of First Offenders	Second Reading dropped.
*Probation of Offenders	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Public Health Act (1875) Amendment (Water Rights).	Second Reading dropped.
Public Health Officers	Second Reading dropped.
Public Libraries	Second Reading dropped.
Public Rights of Way	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Public Rights of Way (No. 2)	Consideration as amended by the Standing Committee dropped.
Purchase of Land (England and Wales)	Second Reading dropped.
Purity of Milk Supplies (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Railways (Contracts)	Consideration (not amended by the Standing Committee) dropped.

SESS. 1907.—Bills which were Introduced into, but not Passed by, the Commons.—*cont.*

TITLE OF BILL.	Stages at which they were DROPPED, POSTPONED, or REJECTED, &c.
Railways, Mines, Canals, &c.	Second Reading dropped.
Railway Tickets	Second Reading dropped.
Rating Appeals (Costs)	Second Reading dropped.
Reformatory and Industrial Schools	Second Reading dropped.
Reformatory and Industrial Schools (No. 2.)	Second Reading dropped.
Regulation of Railways	Second Reading dropped.
Resident Magistrates (Belfast)	Second Reading dropped.
Restraint of Trade (Shops)	Second Reading dropped.
Rights of Way (Scotland)	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Rights of Way (Scotland) (No. 2)	Second Reading dropped.
Sale of Foods and Drugs Amendment (Scotland).	Second Reading dropped.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Contracts)	Second Reading dropped.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland)	Second Reading dropped.
Sale of Whisky	Second Reading dropped.
Saturday Closing of Public Houses	Second Reading dropped.
School Board Electorate (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped
School Board Electorate (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
School Boards Conferences (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Settled Land	Second Reading dropped.
Settlement of Paupers	Second Reading dropped.
Shop Clubs Act (1902) Amendment	Second Reading dropped.
Shops	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Shops (No. 2)	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Shops (No. 3)	Second Reading dropped.
Small Holdings	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Small Holdings (No. 2)	Second Reading dropped.
Small Holdings (No. 3)	Second Reading dropped.
Small Holdings and Cottages	Second Reading dropped.
Small Holdings (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Small Holdings (Scotland) (No. 2)	Second Reading dropped.
Spurious Sports	Second Reading dropped.
*State Reformatories	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland)	Second Reading dropped.
Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment.	Second Reading dropped.
Sunday Trading (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
*Sweated Industries	Second Reading dropped.
Teachers of Music (Registration)	Second Reading dropped.
*Telegraph Construction	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Town Tenants (England and Wales)	Second Reading dropped.
Trade Disputes	Second Reading dropped.
Trawlers' Certificates Suspension	Second Reading dropped.
Trawlers' Regulation	Second Reading dropped.
Trust Investment	Second Reading dropped.
Trusts	Second Reading dropped.
Unemployed Workmen	Second Reading dropped.
University of Durham	Second Reading dropped.
Valuation (Ireland)	Second Reading dropped.
Wages Boards	Second Reading dropped.
Waste Lands (Ireland) Improvement	Second Reading dropped.
Weekly Rest-day	Second Reading dropped.
Weights and Measures (Metric System)	Second Reading put off for six months.
Women's Enfranchisement	Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Women's Enfranchisement (No. 2)	Second Reading dropped.
Youthful Offenders	Second Reading dropped.
Government Bills, 14; other Bills, 155	TOTAL 169

BILLS WHICH WERE PASSED BY THE LORDS, BUT NOT BY THE COMMONS.

TITLE OF BILL.	Stages at which they were DROPPED POSTPONED, or REJECTED, &c.
Companies (Debentures and Debenture Stock)	Second Reading dropped.
Fatal Accidents (Damages) - - - - -	Not read the first time.
*Judicature - - - - - - -	Not read the first time.
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment - -	Not read the first time.
Prohibition of Medical Practice by Companies - - - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
*Rule Committee - - - - - -	Order for Second Reading discharged.
*Statute Law Revision - - - - - -	Order for Second Reading discharged.

BILLS WHICH WERE PASSED BY THE COMMONS BUT NOT BY THE LORDS.

TITLE OF BILL.	Stages at which they were DROPPED, POSTPONED, or REJECTED, &c.
*Land Values (Scotland) - - - - - -	Second Reading negatived.
*Small Landholders (Scotland) - - -	Second Reading dropped.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Total Number of Bills which received the Royal Assent :		
(1.) Introduced into this House - - - - - -	50	
(2.) Brought from the Lords - - - - - - -	11	
(3.) Provisional Order and Confirmation Bills - - -	55	
		116
Total Number of Bills Introduced into, but not Passed by, the Commons		169
Total Number of Bills Passed by the Commons, but not Passed by the Lords - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -		2
Total Number of Bills Passed by the Lords, but not Passed by the Commons - - - - - - - - - - - - - -		7
TOTAL - - -		294

Public Bill Office,
August, 1907.

DIVISIONS, SESSION 1907.

Arranged Alphabetically, including Divisions on Public and Private Business.

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Number of Division List.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Adjournment (for Matter of Urgency), Closure	50	19	169	1363
Do. Question put accordingly	53	20	169	1367
Do.	988	376	179	1661
Advertisements Regulation Bill, Third Reading	619	232	176	13
Do. do. do.	620	233	176	31
Armagh Urban District Council Bill, Second Reading	91	35	170	733
Do. do. do.	93	36	170	739
Army (Annual) Bill, In Committee, Clause 1, Progress, Closure	132	51	171	1013
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	134	52	171	1015
Do. do. do. That the Clause stand part	136	53	171	1017
Do. do. Clause 2, Closure	138	54	171	1027
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	140	55	171	1029
Do. do. do. That the Clause stand part, Closure	142	56	171	1031
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	144	57	171	1035
Do. do. Clause 3, That the Clause stand part, Closure	146	58	171	1039
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	148	59	171	1041
Do. do. Clause 4, Progress, Closure	150	60	171	1049
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	152	61	171	1052
Do. do. Clause 6	154	62	171	1063
Do. do. do. That the Clause stand part	156	63	171	1065
Do. do. Clause 7, That the Clause stand part	158	64	171	1067
Do. do. Clause 8, That the Clause, as amended, stand part	160	65	171	1075
Do. do. Clause 10, Progress, Closure	162	66	171	1091
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	164	67	171	1093
Do. do. do. That certain words of the Clause stand part, Closure	166	68	171	1095
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	168	69	171	1099
Do. do. do.	170	70	171	1107
Do. do. do. That the Clause, as amended, stand part, Closure	172	71	171	1109
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	174	72	171	1113
Do. do. Progress, Closure	176	73	171	1119
Do. do. Question put accordingly	178	74	171	1121

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Number of Division List.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Army (Annual) Bill, In Committee, New Clause (Amendment of Army Act as to desertion and absence without leave), Closure - -	180	75	171	1129
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	182	76	171	1131
Do. do. New Clause (Amendment of Army Act as to fraudulent enlistment), Closure	184	77	171	1137
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	186	78	171	1139
Do. do. New Clause (Amendment of Section 97, Army Act, as to indentured labourers) - - -	188	79	171	1145
Do. do. New Clause (Repeal of Section 187 of Army Act) - - - -	190	80	171	1151
Do. do. New Clause (Additional penalty on interference with recruiting) Closure	192	81	171	1157
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly -	195	82	171	1161
Do. do. New Clause (Amendment of Army Act as to the right of accused to have evidence in writing) -	198	83	171	1165
Do. do. Progress - - - - -	201	84	171	1177
Do. do. New Clause (Amendment of Section 42 as to redress of wrongs complained of by officer) -	204	85	171	1183
Do. do. New Clause (Addition to Part II. of Army Act as to age of enlistment)	207	86	171	1187
Do. do. New Clause (Power to recruit to purchase discharge) - - - - -	210	87	171	1191
Do. do. Schedule 3 - - -	213	88	171	1199
Business of the House, Closure - - - - - - -	865	325	179	289
Do. Question put accordingly - - -	867	326	179	291
Do. (Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill) - -	717	270	177	1179
Do. (King's Speech) (Motion for an Address)	9	3	169	567
Do. do. do. - - -	17	5	169	859
Do. (Land Values (Scotland) Bill) - -	727	273	177	1621
Do. (Procedure) - - - - - - -	254	104	172	399
Do. Amendment - - - - - - -	221	91	171	1585
Do. do. - - - - - - - -	224	92	171	1595
Do. do. - - - - - - - -	226	93	171	1603
Do. do. - - - - - - - -	229	94	171	1679
Do. do. - - - - - - - -	232	95	171	1703
Do. do. - - - - - - - -	235	96	171	1711
Do. do. Closure - - - - -	238	97	171	1723
Do. do. Question put accordingly -	240	98	171	1725
Do. do. - - - - - - - -	257	105	172	433
Do. do. Closure - - - - -	260	106	172	437
Do. do. Question put accordingly -	263	107	172	441
Do. do. - - - - - - - -	266	108	172	454
Do. do. - - - - - - - -	269	109	172	473

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Number of Division List.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Business of the House, Amendment, Adjournment of Debate	272	110	172	489
Do. do.	299	120	172	717
Do. do.	303	121	172	797
Do. do.	307	122	172	815
Do. do.	310	123	172	825
Do. do.	313	124	172	851
Do. do.	316	125	172	857
Do. do.	319	126	172	867
Do. Main Question, as amended, put	322	127	172	873
Do.	325	128	172	877
Do.	328	129	172	883
Do. Amendment	331	130	172	889
Do. do.	334	131	172	893
Do. do.	337	132	172	897
Do. do.	340	133	172	903
Do. do.	343	134	172	909
Do. do.	347	135	172	915
Do. (Procedure) (Termination of Business thereon)	279	113	172	627
Do. Amendment	282	114	172	665
Do. do. Closure	285	115	172	677
Do. do. Question put accordingly	288	116	172	681
Do. do.	293	118	172	703
Do. Main Question put	296	119	172	707
Do. (Small Holdings and Allotments Bill)	465	176	174	1335
Do. (Supply)	47	18	169	1275
Do.	105	40	170	1451
Do.	251	103	172	393
Do.	605	227	175	1251
Do.	921	352	179	977
Do. (Supply and Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill)	87	34	170	499
Do. (Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill) (Allocation of Time)	411	156	173	1363
Do. Amendment	414	157	173	1415
Do. do.	418	158	173	1447
Do. do.	421	159	173	1455
Do. Main Question, as amended, put	424	160	173	1459
Do. (Ways and Means)	397	151	173	899
Butter and Margarine Bill, Re-commitment to a Select Committee	869	327	179	299
Do. do. As amended, considered, Adjournment	871	328	179	322
Do. do. do. page 3, line 13	873	329	179	351
Do. do. do. page 5, line 9	875	330	179	357
Cabs and Stage Carriages (London) Bill, As amended, considered, page 1, line 23	1153	456	181	947
Church of England (Disestablishment)	75	29	170	161
Do.	78	30	170	165
Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Second Reading, Closure	275	111	172	549
Do. Commitment to Standing Committee	277	112	172	555
Colonial Preference	752	283	178	457
Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, Third Reading, Closure	1111	433	181	307
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, In Committee, That Clause 1 stand part	119	45	171	777
Do. do. Third Reading, Adjournment of Debate	121	46	171	969
Do. do. do. Amendment, Adjournment of Debate	124	47	171	989
Do. do. do. Closure	126	48	171	995

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Number of Division List.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, In Committee Question put accordingly	128	49	171	999
Do. do. do. Main Question put, Closure	130	50	171	1001
Criminal Appeal Bill, Commitment	517	194	175	237
Do. As amended, considered, New Clause, (Summary determination of Appeals)	779	294	178	1054
Do. do. page 2, line 33	781	295	178	1067
Do. do. page 3, line 1	894	338	179	605
Do. do. page 3, line 1	896	339	179	609
Do. do. page 3, line 1	898	340	179	625
Do. do. page 3, line 11, Adjournment of Debate	900	341	179	641
Do. do. page 3, line 25	902	342	179	655
Do. do. Adjournment of further consideration of Bill	904	343	179	659
Do. do. page 3, line 29	906	344	179	661
Do. do. page 3, line 38	908	345	179	675
Do. do. page 7, line 14	909	346	179	681
Do. do. Adjournment of further consideration of Bill	910	347	179	685
Do. Third Reading	911	348	179	691
Do. Consideration of Lords Amendments	1112	434	181	313
Criminal Appeal [Expenses]	677	253	177	263
Do. Closure	679	254	177	265
Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act	113	43	171	157
Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland)	73	28	169	1551
Education Acts Amendment Bill, As amended, considered, page 1, line 23	622	234	176	59
Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill, As amended, considered, page 5, line 33	1057	408	180	925
Education (Provision of Meals) Scotland) Bill, Second Reading	83	32	170	417
Do. Commitment to Standing Committee	85	33	170	423
Education (Special Religious Instruction), Leave to bring in Bill	55	21	169	1459
Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill, Second Reading	719	271	177	1287
Do. In Committee, Clause 1, Progress	767	288	178	715
Do. do. do.	769	289	178	765
Do. do. do.	771	290	178	805
Do. do. do.	786	297	178	1243
Do. do. do.	789	298	178	1265
Do. do. do.	793	299	178	1387
Do. do. do.	796	300	178	1405
Do. do. do.	799	301	178	1415
Do. do. do.	802	302	178	1457
Do. do. That the Clause as amended, stand part	805	303	178	1461
Do. do. That Clause 2, as amended, stand part	808	304	178	1465
Do. do. Clause 3	821	309	178	1611
Do. do. do.	824	310	178	1625
Do. do. do.	827	311	178	1631
Do. do. do.	830	312	178	1647
Do. do. do	833	313	178	1653
Do. do. do.	835	314	178	1673
Do. do. do.	837	315	178	1683
Do. do. That the Clause, as amended, stand part	840	316	178	1689

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Number of Division List.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill, That Clause 4, as amended, stand part	843	317	178	1693
Do. do. That Clause 5, as amended, stand part	846	318	178	1697
Do. do. That Clause 9 stand part	849	319	178	1701
Do. do. That Clause 10 stand part	852	320	178	1705
Do. do. That Clause 12, as amended, stand part	855	321	178	1711
Do. do. That Clause 13, as amended, stand part	858	322	178	1715
Do. do. That Clause 14 stand part	861	323	178	1719
Do. do. Recommitment to a Select Committee	877	331	179	511
Do. As amended, considered, New Clause (Power to acquire land subject to an annuity by agreement)	879	332	179	527
Do. do. New Clause (Incorporation of 8 and 9 Vic., c. 18)	881	333	179	543
Do. do. New Clause (Limitation of Act)	883	334	179	559
Do. do. page 1, line 5	885	335	179	575
Do. do. page 1, line 14	888	336	179	579
Do. do. page 2, line 9	891	337	179	584
Do. Third Reading	977	371	179	1437
Do. Consideration of Lords Amendments	1139	449	181	653
Do. do.	1141	450	181	657
Do. do.	1143	451	181	671
Do. do.	1145	452	181	683
Do. do.	1147	453	181	689
Do. do.	1149	454	181	696
Do. do. (Allocation of Time)	783	296	178	1221
Evicted Tenants (Ireland) [Expenses], In Committee	811	305	178	1471
Factory and Workshop Bill [*Lords*], As amended, considered, page 2, line 15	1151	455	181	909
Finance Bill, Second Reading	445	167	174	911
Do. do.	449	168	174	915
Do. In Committee, Clause 1	681	255	177	391
Do. do. do.	683	256	177	419
Do. do. do.	685	257	177	433
Do. do. do. That the Clause stand part	687	258	177	437
Do. do. Clause 2	689	259	177	479
Do. do. Clause 11, That the Clause, as amended, stand part, Closure	691	260	177	581
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	694	261	177	585
Do. do. Clause 16	697	262	177	601
Do. do. do. That the Clause, as amended, stand part	699	263	177	631
Do. do. Clause 17, Progress	701	264	177	643
Do. do. do.	703	265	177	745
Do. do. Clause 18	706	266	177	765
Do. do. do.	708	267	177	777
Do. do. do.	710	263	177	801
Do. do. do.	713	269	177	807
Do. do. New Clause (Reduction of Sugar Duty).	723	272	177	1529

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Number of Division List.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Finance Bill, In Committee, New Clause (Amendment of 57 and 58 Vic., c. 30, s. 35)	738	277	178	167
Do. do. New Clause (Repeal of Cocoa Duty)	740	278	178	181
Do. As amended, considered, New Clause (Death Duties on landed property)	757	284	178	589
Do. do. page 9, line 24	762	286	178	633
Do. do. page 11, line 38	765	287	178	641
Do. Third Reading	913	349	179	833
High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division (Additional Judge)	743	279	178	235
House of Lords	669	251	176	1513
Do.	672	252	176	1517
Intestate Husband's Estate (Scotland) Bill, Commitment	409	155	173	1189
Irish Council, Leave to bring in Bill, Closure	427	161	174	185
Do. do. Question put accordingly	431	162	174	191
Judicature (Ireland) Bill, Second Reading	1034	396	180	483
King's Speech (Motion for an Address) Amendment	3	1	169	267
Do. do.	12	4	169	667
Do. do.	20	6	169	919
Do. do. Closure	23	7	169	971
Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill, as amended, considered	443	166	174	715
Land Law (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill, Second Reading, Closure	351	136	172	1331
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	353	137	172	1335
Do. do. do. Commitment	355	138	172	1337
Land Values (Scotland) Bill, Second Reading	729	274	177	1719
Do. do. As amended, considered, New Clause (Adoption of Act), Closure	115	437	181	515
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	1117	438	181	519
Do. do. do. page 1, line 6	1119	439	181	531
Do. do. do. page 1, line 7	1121	440	181	555
Do. do. do. page 1, line 9	1123	441	181	561
Do. do. do. page 1, line 12	1125	442	181	567
Do. do. do. page 1, line 14	1127	443	181	575
Do. do. do. page 1, line 15	1129	444	181	589
Do. do. do. page 1, line 15	1131	445	181	595
Do. do. do. page 3, line 16	1133	446	181	609
Do. do. do. page 3, line 30	1135	447	181	627
Do. do. Third Reading	1137	448	181	633
Leith Burgh Order Confirmation Bill, Committal to Joint Committee	760	285	178	629
Limited Partnerships Bill, Consideration of Lords Amendments	1113	435	181	327
Do. do. do.	1114	436	181	339
Liquor Traffic (Local Option) (Scotland) Bill, Second Reading, Amendment Closure	377	145	173	445
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	380	146	173	449
Do. do. do. Main question, Closure	383	147	173	453
Do. do. do. Commitment	386	148	173	457
Local Authorities and Land Purchase	249	102	172	325

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Number of Division List.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
London and North Western Railway Bill, Second Reading -	374	144	171	777
London County Council (General Powers) Bill, Second Reading	291	117	172	695
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, Second Reading, Amendment, Closure - -				
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly -	39	14	169	1201
Do. do. do. Main Question put, Closure -	41	15	169	1205
Do. do. Commitment to Standing Committee - - - - - -	43	16	169	1207
Do. do. As amended, considered, Re-commitment, Closure	45	17	169	1211
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly - - -	583	218	175	979
Do. do. New Clause (Application of Act), Closure - - - - - -	585	219	175	981
Do. do. New Clause (Application of Act) -	587	220	175	997
Do. do. New Clause (Commencement of Act) - - - - - - -	589	221	175	1007
Do. do. page 1, line 1 - - - - - -	591	222	175	1017
Do. do. page 1, line 7, Adjournment of Debate - - - - - -	1093	424	180	1429
Do. do. page 1, line 7 - - - - -	1095	425	180	1459
Do. do. page 1, line 7 - - - - -	1097	426	180	1461
Do. do. page 1, line 10 - - - - -	1099	427	180	1479
Do. do. page 1, line 13 - - - - -	1101	428	180	1489
Do. do. page 1, line 15 - - - - -	1103	429	180	1497
Do. do. That words to end of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill - -	1105	430	180	1503
Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, &c.) Bill, Second Reading	1107	431	180	1505
Do. do. Order for Consideration, as amended, read, Amendment -	81	31	170	345
Do. do. As amended, considered, New Clause (Water rate to be charged on "annual value" outside Metropolis), Adjournment of Debate - - - - -	814	306	178	1491
Do. do. do. - - -	816	307	178	1497
Do. do. page 5, line 8 - - - - -	818	308	178	1517
Do. do. page 5, line 12 - - - - -	1002	381	179	1945
	1004	382	179	1949
Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill, As amended, considered, New Clause (For the protection of railway companies) - - - - - - - - - - -	864	324	178	1743
Monastic and Conventual Institutions Bill - - - - -	641	240	176	351
New Writ (Borough of Worcester) - - - - - - -	5	2	169	325
Notification of Births Bill, As amended, considered, page 1, line 12 - - - - - - - - - - - -	1157	458	181	1453
Old Age Pensions Bill, Second Reading - - - - - -	441	165	174	529
Patents and Designs Bill, As amended, considered, New Clause (Exemption of innocent infringer from liability for damages) - - - - - -	1039	399	180	653
Do. do. page 9, line 21 - - - - -	1041	400	180	675

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Number of Division List.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Patents and Designs Bill, page 10 line 27 - - - -	1069	414	180	1175
Post Office (East India, China, and Australian Mails) - -	1155	457	181	1245
Post Office (Liverpool and Hong Kong Mail Contract) - -	243	99	171	1851
Post Office (Sites) (recommitted) Bill, In Committee, Clause 6 -	775	292	178	1039
Do. do. Clause 10 - - - - - -	777	293	178	1045
Privilege - - - - - - - - - - - - -	749	282	178	357
Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils) Bill [*Lords*], Second Reading - - - - - -	1059	409	180	939
Railway Servants (Hours of Labour) - - - - - -	98	38	170	919
Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [*Lords*], As amended, considered, page 6, line 8 - -	1032	395	180	449
Sir Horace Plunkett - - - - - - - - - -	368	142	173	171
Sittings of the House - - - - - - - - - -	217	89	171	1309
Small Holdings and Allotments Bill, Commitment - - -	615	231	175	1705
Do. As amended, considered, page 1, line 8 - -	1043	401	180	819
Do. do. do. page 1, line 24 - -	1045	402	180	843
Do. do. do. page 1, lines 24 and 25	1047	403	180	853
Do. do. do. page 2, line 3 - -	1049	404	180	863
Do. do. do. page 2, line 4 - -	1051	405	180	871
Do. do. do. page 2, line 23 - -	1053	406	180	881
Do. do. do. page 2, line 33 - -	1055	407	180	887
Do. do. do. page 4, line 31 - -	1061	410	180	1115
Do. do. do. page 4, line 32 - -	1063	411	180	1127
Do. do. do. page 4, line 35 - -	1065	412	180	1145
Do. do. do. page 4, line 38 - -	1067	413	180	1161
Do. do. do. page 12, line 1 - -	1071	415	180	1347
Do. do. do. page 12, line 20 -	1073	416	180	1373
Do. do. do. page 13, line 1 - -	1075	417	180	1381
Do. do. do. page 13, line 22 -	1077	418	180	1391
Do. do. do. page 14, line 11 -	1079	419	180	1401
Do. do. do. page 15, line 31 -	1081	420	180	1407
Do. do do. page 19, line 10 -	1084	421	180	1411
Do. do. do. page 19, line 13 -	1087	422	180	1415
Do. do. do. page 24, line 6 - -	1090	423	180	1419
Do. Consideration of Lords Amendments - -	1159	459	182	223
Do. do. do. - - -	1161	460	182	231
Do. do. do. - - -	1163	461	182	241
Do. do. do. - - -	1165	462	182	245
Do. do. do. - - -	1167	463	182	249
Do. do. do. - - -	1169	464	182	255
Do. do. do. - - -	1171	465	181	261
Do. do. do. - - -	1173	466	181	271
Small Holdings and Allotments Bill (Allocation of Time) -	1037	398	180	643
Small Holdings and Allotments [Expenses], in Committee -	667	250	176	777
Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill, Second Reading - -	389	149	173	809
Do. Commitment - - - - - - - - -	393	150	173	815
Do. As amended, considered, New Clause (Saving for Board of Agriculture under Diseases of Animals Acts) - - - - - -	991	377	179	1871
Do. do. do. page 1, line 8 -	993	378	179	1929
Do. do. do. page 1, line 21 -	996	379	179	1934
Do. do. do. page 2, line 4 -	999	380	179	1937
Do. do. do. page 6, line 35 -	1007	384	180	113
Do. do. do. page 7, line 16 -	1009	385	180	137
Do. do. do. page 7, line 29 -	1011	386	180	157
Do. do. do. page 8, line 6 -	1013	387	180	177
Do. do. do. page 13, line 34 -	1017	388	180	365
Do. do. do. page 13, line 39 -	1019	389	180	383
Do. do. do. page 14, line 4 -	1021	390	180	391
Do. do. do. page 14, line 17 -	1023	391	180	405
Do. do. do. page 14, line 30 -	1025	392	180	421

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Number of Division List.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill page 15, line 26	1027	393	180	427
Do. do. do. page 18, line 5	1029	394	180	431
Do. do. do. Third Reading	1035	397	180	629
Do. do. do. (Allocation of Time), Amendment	979	372	179	1611
Do. do. do. do.	982	373	179	1619
Do. do. do. Closure	984	374	179	1623
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	986	375	179	1625
Small Landholders (Scotland) [Salaries], In Committee, Closure	459	173	174	1265
Do. do. do. do. Question put accordingly	461	174	174	1267
Do. do. do. On Report, Amendment	467	177	174	1345
Do. do. do.	470	178	174	1359
Do. do. do. Closure	473	179	174	1365
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	476	180	174	1369
Do. do. do. Main Question, Closure	479	181	174	1373
Standing Orders	117	44	171	321
Supply, In Committee, Supplementary, Houses of Parliament Buildings	25	8	169	1089
Do. do. do. House of Commons Offices	28	9	169	1103
Do. do. do. Chief Secretary's Offices	30	10	169	1113
Do. do. do. do.	32	11	169	1115
Do. do. do. Supreme Court of Judicature	34	12	169	1125
Do. do. do. Education (Scotland)	36	13	169	1137
Do. do. do. Colonial Services, Closure	58	22	169	1499
Do. do. do. do. Question put accordingly	61	23	169	1503
Do. do. do do. Original Question put, Closure	64	24	169	1507
Do. do. do. Temporary Commissions, Closure	67	25	169	1515
Do. do. do. do. Question put accordingly	69	26	169	1519
Do. do. do. do. Original Question put, Closure	71	27	169	1523
Do. do. Army Supplementary	95	37	170	849
Do. do. Vote on Account	101	39	170	1371
Do. do. Customs, and Inland Revenue Buildings	245	100	172	49
Do. do. Sundry Public Buildings in Great Britain	247	101	172	65
Do. do. Navy, Works, Buildings, and Repairs	371	143	173	337
Do. do. Customs Department	453	169	174	1131
Do. do. Inland Revenue Department	454	170	174	1143
Do. do. do.	455	171	174	1145
Do. do. Board of Agriculture	457	172	174	1211
Do. do. Army Armaments and Engineer Stores	608	228	175	1305
Do. do. do. Barrack Construction, &c.	610	229	175	1327
Do. do. do. do.	612	230	175	1337

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Number of Division List.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Supply, In Committee, Board of Education, Progress	733	275	178	71
Do. do. do.	736	276	178	153
Do. do. Earl of Cromer	916	350	179	885
Do. do. Navy, Shipbuilding, Repairs, etc., Personnel	923	353	179	1047
Do. do. Outstanding Votes in Class 1	926	354	179	1053
Do. do. do. Class 2	929	355	179	1057
Do. do. do. Class 3	932	356	179	1061
Do. do. do. Class 4	935	357	179	1067
Do. do. do. Class 5	938	358	179	1071
Do. do. do. Class 6	941	359	179	1075
Do. do. do. Class 7	944	360	179	1079
Do. do. Post Office	947	361	179	1085
Supply, Report, Supplementary, Temporary Commissions	108	41	170	1487
Do. do. do. Army	111	42	170	1547
Do. do. Navy	659	247	176	641
Do. do. Army	662	248	176	669
Do. do. Army	664	249	176	695
Do. do. Outstanding Resolutions in Class 2	957	364	179	1319
Do. do. do. Class 3	960	365	179	1323
Do. do. do. Class 4	963	366	179	1327
Do. do. do. Class 5	966	367	179	1331
Do. do. do. Class 6	969	368	179	1333
Do. do. do. Class 7	972	369	179	1337
Do. do. Earl of Cromer	975	370	179	1341
Telegraph (Money) Bill, as amended, considered, page 1, line 9	745	280	178	245
Do. do. page 1, line 10	747	281	178	257
Do. do. page 1, line 13	773	291	178	1029
Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill, Second Reading	357	139	172	1685
Do. do. do. Closure	361	140	172	1691
Do. do. In Committee, Clause 1	483	182	174	1491
Do. do. do. do.	486	183	174	1535
Do. do. do. do.	489	184	174	1567
Do. do. do. do.	492	185	174	1571
Do. do. do. Clause 2	495	186	174	1575
Do. do. do. Clause 3	504	189	174	1711
Do. do. do. do.	506	190	174	1719
Do. do. do. do.	508	191	174	1731
Do. do. do. do. That the Clause stand part of the Bill	511	192	174	1735
Do. do. do. That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill	514	193	174	1739
Do. do. do. Clause 5	519	195	175	359
Do. do. do. do. That the Clause stand part of the Bill	522	196	175	363
Do. do. do. Clause 6	524	197	175	381
Do. do. do. do.	526	198	175	389
Do. do. do. do.	528	199	175	403
Do. do. do. do. That the Clause stand part of the Bill	531	200	175	408
Do. do. do. That Clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill	534	201	175	411
Do. do. do. Clause 8	537	202	175	525
Do. do. do. do.	540	203	175	536
Do. do. do. do.	543	204	175	567
Do. do. do. do.	545	205	175	583
Do. do. do. do. That the Clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill	548	206	175	587

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Number of Division List.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill, In Committee, That Clause 9 stand part of the Bill	551	207	175	591
Do. do. do. That Clause 10 stand part of the Bill -	554	208	175	595
Do. do. do. That Clause 11 stand part of the Bill -	557	209	175	599
Do. do. do. That Clause 12 stand part of the Bill -	560	210	175	603
Do. do. do. That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill -	563	211	175	725
Do. do. do. Clause 14 - -	566	212	175	741
Do. do. do. do. That the Clause stand part of the Bill -	568	213	175	775
Do. do. do. That Clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill -	571	214	175	779
Do. do. do. That Clause 20 stand part of the Bill -	574	215	175	783
Do. do. do. That Clause 23 stand part of the Bill -	577	216	175	787
Do. do. do. That Clause 24, as amended, stand part of the Bill -	580	217	175	791
Do. do. do. Clause 28 - - -	593	223	175	1117
Do. do. do. Clause 29 - - -	596	224	175	1179
Do. do. do. do. That the Clause stand part of the Bill -	599	225	175	1183
Do. do. do. That Clause 31 stand part of the Bill -	602	226	175	1187
Do. do. As Amended, considered, page 2, line 9 - - -	625	235	176	217
Do. do. do. page 2, line 18 - -	628	236	176	225
Do. do. do. page 4, line 9 - -	631	237	176	265
Do. do. do. page 4, line 38 - -	634	238	176	271
Do. do. do. page 8, line 20 - -	637	239	176	275
Do. do. do. page 13, line 16 -	643	241	176	393
Do. do. do. page 14, line 2 - -	645	242	176	399
Do. do. do. page 15, line 1 - -	647	243	176	411
Do. do. do. page 15, line 15 -	649	244	176	425
Do. do. do. page 16, line 9 - -	652	245	176	429
Do. do. Third Reading - - - - -	655	246	176	577
Do. do. Consideration of Lords Amendments	919	351	179	913
Territorial and Reserve Forces [Expenses], In Committee -	498	187	174	1581
Do. do. Report of Resolution - -	501	188	174	1703
Transvaal Loan (Guarantee) Bill, Second Reading - - -	1109	432	181	273
Vaccination Bill, Second Reading - - - - - - -	462	175	174	1289
Ways and Means, In Committee, Income-tax - - - -	365	141	173	121
Do. do. - - - - - - -	950	362	179	1089
Do. do. - - - - - - -	953	363	179	1093
Ways and Means, Report, Tea Duty - - - - - -	400	152	173	927
Do. do. Tobacco, Beer, and Spirits - -	403	153	173	941
Do. do. Permanent Annual Charge for National Debt - - - - -	406	154	173	951
Do. do. Income tax - - - - - -	435	163	174	261
Do. do. Estate Duty - - - - - -	438	164	174	269
Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill, Second Reading -	219	90	171	1359
Whale Fisheries (Scotland) [Expenses], In Committee - -	1006	383	179	1898

PUBLIC PETITIONS.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons
dated 19 August 1907 ;—*for*,

RETURN "of the Number of PUBLIC PETITIONS Presented and Printed in Session 1907, with the Total Number of Signatures in that year (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.227, of Session 1906)."

YEAR.	Number of Petitions Presented.	Number of Petitions Printed.	Total Number of Signatures.
1907 - - - - -	2,134	51	86,393

WILLIAM H. LEY,
Clerk of the Journals.

28*th August* 1907.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER No. 10.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 19th August 1907;—*for*,

RETURN "of MOTIONS for ADJOURNMENT under STANDING ORDER No. 10, showing the Date of such Motion, the Name of the Member proposing, the definite matter of Urgent Public Importance, and the result of any Division taken thereon during Session 1907 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 382, of Session 1906)."

I.—LEAVE OF THE HOUSE SIGNIFIED WITHOUT A CALL UPON MEMBERS TO RISE IN THEIR PLACES.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Session 1907.

25 February 1907. Page 59 of the Votes. Judgeship in the High Court of Justice in Ireland.

(Mr. *Moore*, Member for North Armagh),—for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the action of His Majesty's present advisers in making an appointment to a Judgeship in the High Court of Justice in Ireland which has been vacant for the last three years;" and, the pleasure of the House having been signified, the Motion stood over, under Standing Order No. 10, until a quarter past Eight that evening, when the Question, That this House do now adjourn, was proposed, and the Question put, pursuant to Standing Order closure of Debate, and negatived on Division (Ayes, 63; Noes, 264).

30 July 1907. Page 613 of the Votes. Radiotelegraphic Convention.

(Sir *Edward Sassoon*, Member for Hythe),—for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the Report of the Select Committee on the Radiotelegraphic Convention, and the declared intention of His Majesty's Government to proceed to ratification without affording the House an opportunity of a discussion on the subject;" and, the pleasure of the House being signified, the Motion stood over, under Standing Order No. 10, until a quarter past Eight that Evening, when the Question, That this House do now adjourn, was put and negatived.

II.—LEAVE OF THE HOUSE SIGNIFIED BY NOT LESS THAN FORTY MEMBERS RISING IN THEIR PLACES.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Session 1907.

5 August 1907. Page 648 of the Votes. Non-provided Schools in Merionethshire (Teachers' Salaries).

(Lord *Robert Cecil*, Member for East Marylebone),—for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the failure of the Government to secure the due payment of the Salaries of the Teachers in the Non-provided Schools in Merionethshire;" but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than forty Members having accordingly risen, the Motion stood over, under Standing Order No. 10, until a quarter past Eight that Evening, when the Question, That this House do now adjourn, was put and negatived on Division (Ayes, 78; Noes, 145).

III.—LEAVE OF THE HOUSE GIVEN ON DIVISION.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Session 1907.

Nil.

IV.—LEAVE OF THE HOUSE REFUSED BY LESS THAN FORTY MEMBERS RISING IN THEIR PLACES.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Session 1907.

Nil.

V.—MR. SPEAKER DECLINES TO ALLOW THE MOTION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE HOUSE.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Session 1907.

Nil.

SUMMARY.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.	Session 1906.
I.—Leave of the House signified without a Call upon Members to rise in their Places - - - - - - - - - - - - -	2
II.—Leave of the House signified by not less than Forty Members rising in their Places - - - - - - - - - - - - -	1
III.—Leave of the House given on Division - - - - - - - - -	0
IV.—Leave of the House Refused by less than Forty Members rising in their Places - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	0
V.—Motions for Adjournment not allowed by Mr. Speaker to be submitted to the House - - - - - - - - - - - -	0
Total - - - -	3

NUMBER of times Members asked leave to move the Adjournment of the House in each of the following Years.

1882		4
1883		5
1884		9
1885		4
1886		4
1887		11
1888		10
1889		7
1890		6
1891		5
1892		3
1893–94		20
1894		5
1895	Session 1 - 2 Session 2 - 0	2
1896		6
1897		7
1898		5
1899	Session 1 - 5 Session 2 - 0	5
1900	Session 1 - 6 Session 2 - 0	6
1901		9
1902		14
1903		3
1904		7
1905		9
1906		5
1907		3

28th August 1907.

WILLIAM H. LEY,

Clerk of the Journals.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

RETURN of the Number of Days on which the House Sat in Session 1907; stating, for each Day, the Date of the Month and Day of the Week, the Hour of the Meeting, and the Hour of Adjournment; and the Total Number of Hours occupied in the Sittings of the House, and the Average Time; and showing the Number of Hours on which the House Sat each Day, and the Number of Hours after 11 o'clock P.M.; and the Number of Entries in each Day's Votes and Proceedings (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.228, of Session 1907).

SESSION 1907.

Day of the Month.	Day of the Week.	Hour of Meeting.	Hour of Adjournment.	No. of Hours Sitting.	No. of Hours after 11 P.M.	No. of Entries in Votes.
1907.		H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	
Feb. 12	Tu.	2 0	P.M. 11 1	9 1	0 1	40
„ 13	Wd.	2 45	11 12	8 27	0 12	23
„ 14	Th.	2 45	11 1	8 16	0 1	74
„ 15	Fr.	12 0	4 59	4 59	—	48
„ 18	M.	2 45	11 33	8 48	0 33	32
„ 19	Tu.	2 45	10 59	8 14	—	46
„ 20	Wd.	2 45	A.M. 12 45	10 0	1 45	33
„ 21	Th.	2 45	P.M. 11 11	8 26	0 11	35
„ 22	Fr.	12 0	5 3	5 3	—	24
„ 25	M.	2 45	11 57	9 12	0 57	40
„ 26	Tu.	2 45	11 5	8 20	0 5	46
„ 27	Wd.	2 45	11 15	8 30	0 15	40
„ 28	Th.	2 45	11 1	8 16	0 1	28
Total -	13	- -	- -	105 32	4 1	509

Day of the Month.	Day of the Week.	Hour of Meeting.	Hour of Adjournment.	No. of Hours Sitting.	No. of Hours after 11 P.M.	No. of Entries in Votes.
1907.		H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	
Mar. 1	Fr.	12 0	P.M. 5 3	5 3	—	26
„ 4	M.	2 45	11 26	8 41	0 26	56
„ 5	Tu.	2 45	11 4	8 19	0 4	60
„ 6	Wd.	2 45	11 15	8 30	0 15	26
„ 7	Th.	2 45	11 40	8 55	0 40	27
„ 8	Fr.	12 0	5 6	5 6	—	16
„ 11	M.	2 45	11 16	8 31	0 16	53
„ 12	Tu.	2 45	A.M. 12 2	9 17	1 2	62
„ 13	Wd.	2 45	P.M. 11 11	8 26	0 11	39
„ 14	Th.	2 45	10 32	7 47	—	45
„ 15	Fr.	12 0	5 5	5 5	—	25
„ 18	M.	2 45	MID-NIGHT. 12 0	9 15	1 0	75
„ 19	Tu.	2 45	P.M. 11 15	8 30	0 15	67
„ 20	Wd. Th.	2 45 —	— P.M. 5 36	26 51	18 36	55
„ 22	Fr.	12 0	5 10	5 10	—	59
„ 23	Sat.	12 0	6 9	6 9	—	13
„ 25	M.	2 45	11 15	8 30	0 15	70
„ 26	Tu.	2 45	11 8	8 23	0 8	52
„ 27	Wd.	2 45	8 52	6 7	—	41
Total -	19	- -	- -	162 35	23 8	867

Day of the Month.	Day of the Week.	Hour of Meeting.	Hour of Adjournment.	No. of Hours Sitting.	No. of Hours after 11 P.M.	No. of Entries in Votes.
1907.		H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	
Apr. 8	M.	2 45	A.M. 8 15	5 30	—	62
„ 9	Tu.	2 45	11 5	8 20	0 5	81
„ 10	Wd.	2 45	11 15	8 30	0 15	62
„ 11	Th.	2 45	11 50	9 5	0 50	53
„ 12	Fr.	12 0	5 2	5 2	—	37
„ 15	M.	2 45	11 15	8 30	0 15	74
„ 16	Tu.	2 45	A.M. 12 15	9 30	1 15	68
„ 17	Wd.	2 45	P.M. 11 7	8 22	0 7	66
„ 18	Th.	2 45	9 55	7 10	—	45
„ 19	Fr.	12 0	5 30	5 30	—	19
„ 22	M.	2 45	11 10	8 25	0 10	95
„ 23	Tu.	2 45	11 29	8 44	0 29	59
„ 24	Wd.	2 45	11 25	8 40	0 25	69
„ 25	Th.	2 45	10 18	7 33	—	41
„ 26	Fr.	12 0	5 38	5 38	—	26
„ 29	M.	2 45	11 6	8 21	0 6	119
„ 30	Tu.	2 45	11 24	8 39	0 24	67
Total -	17	- -	- -	131 29	4 21	1,043

Day of the Month.	Day of the Week.	Hour of Meeting.	Hour of Adjournment.	No. of Hours Sitting.	No. of Hours after 11 P.M.	No. of Entries in Votes.
1907.		H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	
May 1	Wd.	2 45	P.M. 11 15	8 30	0 15	62
„ 2	Th.	2 45	10 56	8 11	—	33
„ 3	Fr.	12 0	4 0	4 0	—	22
„ 6	M.	2 45	11 28	8 43	0 28	103
„ 7	Tu.	2 45	11 30	8 45	0 30	57
„ 8	Wd.	2 45	11 7	8 22	0 7	83
„ 9	Th.	2 45	11 6	8 21	0 6	66
„ 10	Fr.	12 0	5 16	5 16	—	40
„ 13	M.	2 45	11 7	8 22	0 7	101
„ 14	Tu.	2 45	11 56	9 11	0 56	91
„ 15	Wd.	2 45	11 8	8 23	0 8	71
„ 16	Th.	2 45	7 28	4 43	—	36
„ 23	Th.	2 45	8 30	5 45	—	74
„ 24	Fr.	12 0	4 51	4 51	—	41
„ 27	M.	2 45	A.M. 12 25	9 40	1 25	83
„ 28	Tu.	2 45	P.M. 11 26	8 41	0 26	68
„ 29	Wd.	2 45	11 14	8 29	0 14	65
„ 30	Th.	2 45	11 2	8 17	0 2	41
„ 31	Fr.	12 0	4 58	4 58	—	34
Total -	19	- -	- -	141 28	4 44	1,171

Return of the Number of Days on which the House Sat in Session of 1907, &c.—*continued.*

Day of the Month.	Day of the Week.	Hour of Meeting.	Hour of Adjournment.	No. of Hours Sitting.	No. of Hours after 11 p.m.	No. of Entries in Votes.
1907.		H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	
June 3	M.	2 45	P M. 11 15	8 30	0 15	84
„ 4	Tu.	2 45	11 30	8 45	0 30	71
„ 5	Wd.	2 45	11 23	8 38	0 23	69
„ 6	Th.	2 45	11 3	8 18	0 3	44
„ 7	Fr.	12 0	5 14	5 14	—	36
„ 10	M.	2 45	11 12	8 27	0 12	85
„ 11	Tu.	2 45	11 37	8 52	0 37	84
„ 12	Wd.	2 45	11 5	8 20	0 5	59
„ 13	Th.	2 45	11 21	8 36	0 21	62
„ 14	Fr.	12 0	5 5	5 5	—	39
„ 17	M.	2 45	11 19	8 34	0 19	102
„ 18	Tu.	2 45	10 56	8 11	—	60
„ 19	Wd.	2 45	11 11	8 26	0 11	59
„ 20	Th.	2 45	11 17	8 32	0 17	40
„ 21	Fr.	12 0	5 8	5 8	—	54
„ 24	M.	2 45	11 5	8 20	0 5	103
„ 25	Tu.	2 45	11 10	8 25	0 10	63
„ 26	Wd.	2 45	11 47	9 2	0 47	52
„ 27	Th.	2 45	11 5	8 20	0 5	65
„ 28	Fr.	12 0	5 18	5 18	—	35
Total -	20	- -	- -	157 1	4 20	1,266
1907.		H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	
July 1	M.	2 45	P.M. 11 55	9 10	0 55	86
„ 2	Tu.	2 45	11 27	8 42	0 27	66
„ 3	Wd.	2 45	11 46	9 1	0 46	59
„ 4	Th.	2 45	11 5	8 20	0 5	66
„ 5	Fr.	12 0	5 3	5 3	—	55
„ 8	M.	2 45	A.M. 12 1	9 16	1 1	101
„ 9	Tu.	2 45	P.M. 10 46	8 1	—	24
„ 10	Wd.	2 45	11 48	9 3	0 48	58
„ 11	Th.	2 45	A.M. 1 40	10 55	2 40	60
„ 12	Fr.	12 0	P.M. 5 5	5 5	—	35
„ 15	M.	2 45	11 29	8 44	0 29	87
„ 16	Tu.	2 45	11 51	9 6	0 51	70
„ 17	Wd.	2 45	11 12	8 27	0 12	56
„ 18	Th.	2 45	11 14	8 29	0 14	49
1907.		H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	
July 19	Fr.	12 0	P.M. 5 1	5 1	—	53
„ 22	M.	2 45	11 13	8 28	0 13	88
„ 23	Tu.	2 45	A.M. 2 39	11 54	3 39	28
„ 24	Wd.	2 45	1 40	10 55	2 40	56
„ 25	Th.	2 45	P.M. 11 30	8 45	0 30	51
„ 26	Fr.	12 0	11 7	11 7	0 7	66
„ 29	M.	2 45	A.M. 6 38	15 53	7 38	64
„ 30	Tu.	2 45	2 40	11 55	3 40	58
„ 31	Wd.	2 45	2 54	12 9	3 54	51
Total -	23	- -	- -	213 29	30 49	1,387
1907.		H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	
Aug. 1	Th.	2 45	A.M. 1 10	10 25	2 10	35
„ 2	Fri.	12 0	P.M. 6 48	6 48	—	52
„ 5	M.	2 45	A.M. 12 35	9 50	1 35	46
„ 6	Tu.	2 45	2 59	12 14	3 59	39
„ 7	Wd.	2 45	1 26	10 41	2 26	40
„ 8	Th.	2 45	2 25	11 40	3 25	41
„ 9	Fri.	12 0	P M. 8 45	8 45	—	31
„ 12	M.	2 45	A.M. 2 4	11 19	3 4	43
„ 13	Tu.	2 45	1 6	10 21	2 6	39
„ 14	Wd.	2 45	6 4	15 19	7 4	25
„ 15	Th.	2 45	2 45	12 0	3 45	26
„ 16	Fri.	12 0	P.M. 7 16	7 16	—	41
„ 19	M.	2 45	A.M. 5 24	14 39	6 24	47
„ 20	Tu.	2 45	7 45	17 0	8 45	25
„ 21	Wd.	2 45	P.M. 10 57	8 12	—	53
„ 22	Th.	2 45	11 35	8 50	0 35	47
„ 23	Fri.	12 0	7 25	7 25	—	20
„ 26	M.	2 45	11 58	9 13	0 58	48
„ 27	Tu.	2 45	8 25	5 40	—	40
„ 28	Wd.	12 0	Prorogation		—	9
Total -	20	- -	- -	197 37	46 16	747

SUMMARY.

MONTH.	Number of Days Sitting.	Number of Hours Sitting.		Number of Hours after 11 p.m.		Number of Entries in Votes.
		H.	M.	H.	M.	
SESSION 1907.						
February - - - - - -	13	105	32	4	1	509
March - - - - - -	19	162	35	23	8	867
April - - - - - -	17	131	29	4	21	1,043
May - - - - - -	19	141	28	4	44	1,171
June - - - - - -	20	157	1	4	20	1,266
July - - - - - -	23	213	29	30	49	1,387
August - - - - -	20	197	37	46	16	747
Total - -	131	1,109	11	117	39	6,990

Average Length of Sitting daily, 8 hours 28 minutes $1\frac{49}{131}$ seconds.

WILLIAM H. LEY,

28*th August*, 1907.

Clerk of the Journals.

PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVATE BUSINESS.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 12 December, 1907;—*for*,

RETURN "of the Number of PRIVATE BILLS, HYBRID BILLS, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders introduced into the HOUSE OF COMMONS and brought from the HOUSE OF LORDS, and of ACTS passed in Session 1907, classed according to the following Subjects:—Railways; Tramways; Tramroads; Subways; Canals and Navigations; Roads and Bridges; Water; Waterworks; Gas; Gas and Water; Lighting and Improvement; Police and Sanitary Regulations; Corporations, &c. (not relating to Police and Sanitary Regulations or to Lighting and Improvement Schemes); Ports, Piers, Harbours, and Docks; Churches, Chapels and Burying Grounds; Markets and Fairs; Gaols and other County Buildings; Inclosure and Drainage; Estate; Patent; Divorce; Naturalisation; Hospitals, and Miscellaneous:"

"Of all the PRIVATE BILLS, HYBRID BILLS, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which in Session 1906 have been reported on by Committees on Opposed Private Bills, or by Committees nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection, together with the names of the selected Members who served on each Committee; the first and also the last day of the sitting of each Committee; the number of days on which each Committee sat; the number of days on which each selected Member has served; the number of days occupied by each Bill in Committee; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been Proved; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been Not Proved; and, in the case of Bills for confirming Provisional Orders, whether the Provisional Orders ought or ought not to be confirmed:"

"Of all PRIVATE BILLS and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which, in Session 1907, have been referred by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills, to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means; together with the names of the Members who served on each Committee; the number of days on which each Committee sat; and the number of days on which each Member attended:"

"And, of the Number of PRIVATE BILLS, HYBRID BILLS, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders withdrawn or not proceeded with by the parties, those Bills being specified which have been referred to Committees and dropped during the sittings of the Committee (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.224, of Session 1906)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

1907.

OPPOSED PRIVATE BILLS.

RETURN of all the PRIVATE BILLS and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which, in the Session of 1907, have been reported on by COMMITTEES on Opposed Private Bills; together with the Names of the Selected Members who served on each Committee; the First and also the Last Day of the Sitting of each Committee; the Number of Days on which each Committee sat; the Number of Days on which each Selected Member has Served; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been Proved; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been Not Proved; and in the case of Bills for confirming Provisional Orders, whether the Provisional Orders ought or ought not to be confirmed; and the Bills Withdrawn, or not proceeded with by the Parties.

Note.—(*a.*) The Groups to which a Number is affixed consist of Railway and Canal Bills; those to which a Letter is affixed consist of Private Bills other than Railway and Canal Bills.

(*b.*) Particulars about the following Select Committees, which deal exclusively with Private Business, are to be found in the Select Committee's Return: Court of Referees and Standing Orders, and in the same Return particulars about the Committee of Selection, which is chiefly occupied with Private Business.

NAMES OF MEMBERS Selected.	Number of Days on which each Member attended.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	First Sitting of the Committee.	Last Sitting of the Committee.	NAMES OF BILLS.	Days occupied by each Bill in Committee.	Preamble Proved.	Preamble *not* Proved.	Withdrawn.	REMARKS.
GROUP 1.										
Mr. D. A. Thomas (Chairman).	4	4	14 Mar.	20 Mar.	1. Hull and Barnsley Railway	4	20 Mar.			
Lord John Joicey-Cecil	4				2. North Eastern and Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways.	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 20 March.
Mr. James Murray	4				3. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 22 March.
Mr. Vincent Kennedy	4				4. Great Central Railway	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 22 March.
GROUP 2.										
Mr. Soames (Chairman)	10	10	9 Apr.	9 May	1. Neath Pontardawe and Brynaman Railway Bill.	2	10 Apr.			
Mr. Armitage (discharged 17th April, added May 1st).	4				2. South Wales Mineral Railway Bill.	2	11 Apr.			
Mr. Fell	9				3. Taff Vale Railway	1	17 Apr.			
Mr. W. Johnson (discharged May 1st).	7				4. Collooney, Ballina, Belmullet Railway and Piers Bill.	6	6 May			

GROUP 2—*continued.*										
Mr. McKillop (added April 17th).	5				5. Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill.	–			6 May	
					6. Cardiff Railway - - -	–	–	–	–	Not read a second time.
GROUP 3.										
Sir George Doughty (Chairman).	24	24	17 April	14 June	1. Great Western, London and North Western and Rhymney Railways.	14	–	10 June	–	Competing Bills.
Mr. Barnard - - -	23				2. Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (General Powers).	4	14 June	–	–	
Mr. Laidlaw - - -	23									
Mr. T. F. Richards (Wolverhampton).	23				3. Barry Railway - - -	17	10 June	–	–	
					4. Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway.	–	–	–	–	Unopposed Removed from Group, 22 April.
GROUP 4.										
Mr. D. A. Thomas (Chairman).	2	2	18 Apr.	19 Apr.	1. Great Northern and City Railway Bill.	2				
Mr. Bellairs - - -	2				2. Central London Railway Bill.	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 18 April.
Mr. T. F. Smyth - - -	2				3. Lower Thames Tunnel Railway Bill.	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 18 April.
Mr. Edmund G. Lamb -	2									
GROUP 5.										
Sir Lewis M'Iver (Chairman)	11	11	18 Apr.	13 May	1. North Eastern and Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways Bill.	1	-	–	18 April	
Mr. Gulland - - -	11									
Mr. Myer - - - -	11				2. South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill.	-	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 15 April.

NAMES OF MEMBERS Selected.	Number of Days on which each Member attended.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	First Sitting of the Committee.	Last Sitting of the Committee.	NAMES OF BILLS.	Days occupied by each Bill in Committee.	Preamble Proved.	Preamble *not* Proved.	Withdrawn.	REMARKS.
GROUP 5—*continued.*										
Mr. T. Richards (Monmouth).	8				3. Watford and Edgware Railway Bill.	2	–	24 Apr.		
					4. London and North Western Railway Bill.	5	13 May			
					5. Great Central Railway Bill-	3	2 May			
					6. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill.	4	8 May			
GROUP 6.										
Mr. Lambton (Chairman).	3	3	25 Apr.	29 Apr.	London County Council (Tramways and Improvements).	3	29 Apr.			
Mr. Levy Lever - - -	3				2. London United Tramways -	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 30 April.
Mr. Ferens - - - -	3									
Mr. Murphy - - -	1									
GROUP 8.										
Mr. Osmond Williams (Chairman).	2	2	16 July	17 July	1. Lower Thames Tunnel Railway.	–	–	–	24 June	
Mr. Branch - - - -	2				2. Oxford and District Tramways [*Lords.*]	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 8 July.
Mr. Keswick - - -	2				3. Midland Railway [*Lords*] -	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 22 July.
Mr. W. G. Nicholson (Petersfield).	2				4. North British Railway [*Lords*].	2	17 July			
GROUP A.										
Sir Frederick Banbury Chairman).	5	5	12 Mar.	19 Mar.	1. Annfield Plain and District Gas.	3	14 Mar.			
Mr. Fiennes - - -	5				2. Llandrindod Wells Gas -	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 12 March.

GROUP A—*continued.*										
Mr. Raphael	5				3. Shanklin Gas	–	–		–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 12 March.
Mr. Walter Hudson (discharged March 12th).	0				4. Mitcham and Wimbledon Gas.	3	19 Mar.			
Mr. Mond (added March 12th).	4				5. Leeds Corporation	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 15 March.
Mr. Hutton (Chairman).	5	5	19 Mar.	26 Mar.	1. Maidstone Gas	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 12 March.
Mr. G. A. Gibbs (discharged 15th March).	0				2. Falmouth Gas	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 12 March.
Mr. Agnew	5				3. Worthing Gas	4	26 Mar.			
Mr. John Johnson	5				4. Grays and Tilbury Gas	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 19 March.
Mr. Rowland Hunt (added 15th March).	4				5. Boston Spa Gas	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 22 Mar.
					6. London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market).	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 11 Mar.
					7. Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply Bill.	2	22 Mar.			
					8. Keswick Urban District Council Water.	1	26 Mar.			
GROUP E.										
Mr. Mooney (Chairman)	3	3	16 April	19 April	1. Swansea Harbour	2	16 April			
Mr. Hicks Beach	2				2. Great Yarmouth Port and Haven.	1	19 April			
Major McMicking (discharged in respect of Swansea Harbour Bill 8 April, and discharged 18 April).					3. Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.	–	–	–	–	Not read a second time.
					4. Leith Harbour Docks	–	–	–	–	Not read a second time.

NAMES OF MEMBERS Selected.	Number of Days on which each Member attended.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	First Sitting of the Committee.	Last Sitting of the Committee.	NAMES OF BILLS.	Days occupied by each Bill in Committee.	Preamble Proved.	Preamble *not* Proved.	Withdrawn.	REMARKS.
GROUP E.—*continued.*										
Mr. B. S. Straus	3									
Mr. Hazel (added in respect of Swansea Harbour Bill 8 April).	2									
Mr. Seaverns (added 18 April).	1									
GROUP F.										
Mr. Nussey (Chairman)	6	6	28 May	5 June	1. Humber Conservancy Bill [*Lords*].	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 31 May.
Mr. Morrell	6				2. Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) Bill [*Lords*].	6	5 June			
Mr. J. S. Fletcher	6				3. Southend Water Bill [*Lords*].	2	5 June			
Mr. Charles MacVeigh	6				4. Tyne Improvement Bill [*Lords*].	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 24 May.
GROUP G.										
Sir Henry Kimber (Chairman).	15	15	13 June	22 July	1. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6).	2	17 June			
Mr. Fullerton	13				2. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8).	6	3 July			
Mr. Scarisbrick	15				3. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11).	1	26 June			
Mr. C. J. O'Donnell (discharged in respect of Local Government Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill).	9				4. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13).	2	27 June			

GROUP G—*continued.*										
Mr. Gwynn (added in respect of Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill).	1				5. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14).	1	26 June			
					6. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3).	1	2 July			
					7. Merthyr Tydvil Stipendiary Justice Bill.	2	9 July			
					8. Humber Conservancy - -	5	15 July			
GROUP H.										
Sir Joseph Leese (Chairman)	12	12	18 June	9 July	1. North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply.	3	20 June			
Colonel Sir Ivor Phillips (Southampton) (discharged 21 June).	5				2. Tees Valley Water Consolidation [*Lords*].	4	21 June			
Colonel C. E. Warde (Mid Kent), (discharged 24 June).	5				3. Kendal Corporation [*Lords*].	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 21 June.
Mr. Clough (added 21 June).	7				4. Western Valleys (Monmouthshire Sewerage Board [*Lords*].	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 28 June.
Viscount Turnour (added 24 June).	7									
Sir Walter Nugent - -	6				5. Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas [*Lords*].	8	9 July			
					6. Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board [*Lords*].	1	21 June			
					7. Selsey Water [*Lords*] - -	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 20 June.
					8. Tynemouth Corporation (Water) [*Lords*].	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 28 June.
GROUP J.										
Major Seely (Chairman) -	12	12	27 June	16 July	1. General Accident, Fire, and Life Assurance, Corporation, Limited, Bill [*Lords*].	1	27 June			
Mr. Duffy (discharged 28 June).	0				2. Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [*Lords*].	1	27 June			
Mr. E. A. Straus - -	8									
Mr. Lewis Haslam - -	12				3. Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [*Lords*].	–		–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 29 June.
Mr. C. H. Corbett (added 28 June).	11				4. Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Bill [*Lords*].	8	16 July			

NAMES OF MEMBERS Selected.	Number of Days on which each Member attended.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	First Sitting of the Committee.	Last Sitting of the Committee.	NAMES OF BILLS.	Days occupied by each Bill in Committee.	Preamble Proved.	Preamble *not* Proved.	Withdrawn.	REMARKS.
GROUP J—*continued.*					5. Coventry Corporation Bill [*Lords*].	1	5 July			
					6. Aberdeen Corporation Electricity Bill [*Lords*].	3	8 July			
					7. Selsey Water Bill [*Lords*].	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 8 July.
					8. Humber Conservancy Bill [*Lords*].	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 3 July.
GROUP K.										
Mr. Arthur Stanley (Ormskirk), (Chairman).	7	7	22 July	3 August	1. Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [*Lords*].	4	26 July			
Mr. Gooch - - - -	6				2. Colne Valley Water Bill [*Lords*].	2	23 July			
Mr. H. Pearson - - -	7				3. Portishead District Water Bill [*Lords*].	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 15 July.
Mr. Haworth - - -	7				4. City of London (Union of Parishes) Bill [*Lords*].	2	30 July			
					5. Leith Burgh Order Confirmation Bill [*Lords*].	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 15 July.
					6. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [*Lords*].	–	–	–	–	Unopposed. Removed from Group, 23 July.
					7. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill [*Lords*].	1	3 Aug.			
POLICE AND SANITARY COMMITTEE.										
Mr. Corrie Grant (Chairman).	31	40	7 Mar.	14 Aug.	1. Armagh Urban District Council.	2	16 May			
Captain Balfour - - -	4				2. Brighouse Corporation -	5	23 Apr.			
Mr. Guy Baring - - -	28				3. King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council.	6	9 May			
Mr. Hall - - - -	10				4. Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation.	5	17 Apr.			

POLICE AND SANITARY COMMITTEE—*continued.*										
Mr. Helme - - - - -	19				5. London County Council (General Powers).	8	12 June			
Mr. Jowett - - - -	23				6. Penrith Urban District Council.	2	10 May			
Mr. Vincent Kennedy (discharged 1st July).	9				7. Rawtenstall Corporation -	6	11 Apr.			
Mr. Layland Barratt (acted as Chairman 10 times).	17				8. Sunderland Corporation -	2	7 June			
Mr. C. N. Nicholson (Doncaster).	35				9. Glasgow Corporation [*Lords*].	4	7 Aug.	—	--	Special Report, 7th August.
Mr. Manfield - - -	25				10. Devonport Corporation [*Lords*].	2	18 June			
Mr. Samuel Roberts - -	7				11. Sheffield Corporation [*Lords*].	2	3 July			
Mr. Sidney Robinson (added 14th March).	9									
Mr. Ernest Gardner (added 4th June).	4									
Mr. Charles MacVeigh (added 1st July).	5									
Mr. William Jones (discharged 14th March).	0									

The following Bill was recommitted to a Select Committee nominated by the House.

Sir Joseph Leese (Chairman).	2	2	15 Aug.	19 Aug.	York (Micklegate Strays) Bill [*Lords*].	2	19 Aug.			
Mr. Charles Corbett - -	2									
Mr. George Nicholls - -	2									
Mr. John O'Connor - -	1									
Mr. Parker - - - -	2									
Earl of Ronaldshay - -	2									
Mr. Waterlow - - -	2									

The following Bills were referred to Select Committees nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection.

NAMES OF MEMBERS Selected.	Number of Days on which each Member attended.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	First Sitting of the Committee.	Last Sitting of the Committee.	NAMES OF BILLS.	Days occupied by each Bill in Committee.	Preamble proved.	Preamble *not* proved.	Withdrawn.	REMARKS.
Mr. Luke White (Chairman).	2	2	25 June	4 July	United Methodist Church (London).	2	4 July			
Mr. Essex - - - -	2									
Mr. Ferens - - - -	2									
Mr. Gwynn - - - -	2									
Sir John Randles - -	2									
Mr. Compton Rickett (discharged 26th June).	1	–	–	–	- - - - - - -	–	–	–	–	Nominated by the Committee of Selection.
Mr. Arthur Henderson -	1									
Mr. George White - -	1									
Sir George Doughty - -	1									
Mr. Massie (added 26th June, and discharged 27th June).	1									
Mr. Hay Morgan (added 27th June).	1									
Mr. Buxton (Chairman) -	1	1	4 June	4 June	Post Office Sites - - -	1	4 June			
Mr. George Greenwood -	1									
Mr. John Wilson (Durham)	0									
Mr. Silcock - - - -	1	–	–	–	- - - - - - -	–	–	–	–	Nominated by the Committee of Selection.
Mr. Henniker Heaton - -	1									

Mr. H. J. Tennant (Chairman).	14	13	6 June	17 July	Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Deduction for Propelling Power) Bill.	13	17 July	–		
Mr. Brodie - - -	8									
Mr. Hills - - - -	6									
Mr. Joyce - - - -	13									
Mr. Walters - - -	11									
Mr. Evelyn Cecil - - -	11									
Mr. Jenkins - - -	10									
Mr. Partington - - -	12	–	–	–	- - - - - - -	–	–	–	–	Nominated by the Committee of Selection.
Mr. Raphael - - -	13									
Mr. D. A. Thomas (Chairman).	9	9	7 June	26 June	London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill.	–	–	25 June		
Mr. Howell Davies - -	8									
Mr. Joseph Nolan - -	9									
Mr. W. W. Rutherford -	2									
Sir Albert Spicer - - -	9									
Mr. A. E. Dunn - - -	9									
Mr. J. Ward - -	8									
Major Renton - - -	9	–	–	–	- - - - - -	–	–	–	–	Nominated by the Committee of Selection.
Sir Philip Muntz - - -	9									

The following Bills were committed to a Joint Committee of the two Houses.

NAMES OF MEMBERS Selected.	Number of Days on which each Member attended.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	First Sitting of the Committee.	Last Sitting of the Committee.	NAMES OF BILLS.	Days occupied by each Bill in Committee.	Preamble Proved.	Preamble *not* Proved.	Withdrawn.	REMARKS.
Mr. Charles Duncan - -	14	17	2 May	25 June	1. The Metropolitan Water Board (Charges etc.) Bill.	12	25 June			
Sir John Randles - -	15									
Mr. Rose - - - -	17									
Mr. Whitbread - - -	15				2. The Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.	5	25 June			
Mr. Luke White - - -	17									

House of Commons.
1907.

EVERARD H. DOYLE,
Principal Clerk of Committees.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILLS, 1907.

RETURN of all PRIVATE BILLS and BILLS FOR CONFIRMING PROVISIONAL ORDERS which, in Session 1907, have been referred by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills, to the COMMITTEE on UNOPPOSED BILLS, together with the Names of the Members who served on each Committee, the Number of Days on which each Committee sat, and the Number of Days on which each Member attended (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0.224, of Session 1906).

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (Additional Capital, &c.).	1	Deputy Chairman. Mr. Crombie. Mr. Beale. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Alton Military Hospital [*Lords*] - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Paulton. Mr. Beale. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Baines' Name [*Lords*] - - - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Basingstoke Gas - - - - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Birmingham Corporation [*Lords*] - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Birmingham Corporation Water [*Lords*] -	1	
Borax Consolidated [*Lords*] - - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Boston Spa Gas - - - - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway.	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Paulton. Lord Robert Cecil. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Bristol Corporation - - - - -	1	
Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Brockenhurst Gas	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney.
Bude Gas	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Burnham (Somerset) Pier [*Lords*]	2	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Burnley Corporation	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Paulton. Lord Robert Cecil. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Central London Railway	1	Chairman of Ways and Means Deputy Chairman. Mr. Crombie. Mr. Beale. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Electric Supply Corporation [*Lords*]	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Falmouth Gas	1	Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Folkestone, Sandgate and Hythe Tramways [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Paulton. Lord Robert Cecil. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions).	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Grays and Tilbury Gas	2	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Harrison's Patent [*Lords*]	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Heywood and Middleton Water Board [*Lords*].	1	Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Sir Chandos Leigh.

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Kendal Corporation [*Lords*]	1	Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation) [*Lords*].	2	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
King Edward's Hospital Fund for London [*Lords*].	2	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Mr. Crombie. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Leeds Corporation	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
London County Council (Money)	1	
Llandrindod Wells Gas	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
London and North Western Railway (Superannuation Fund).	1	
London United Tramways	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Maidstone Gas	1	Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney.
Manchester Corporation Tramways [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal) [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Medway Lower Navigation [*Lords*]	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund) [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Lord Robert Cecil. Mr. Beale. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Middlesborough, Stockton-on-Tees and Thornaby Tramways [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Middlesborough Corporation - - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Midland Railway [*Lords*] - - -	1	
National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Newquay and District Water [*Lords*] -	1	
North East London Railway - - -	2	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
North Staffordshire Railway - - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Oxford and District Tramways [*Lords*] -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Pasley Children Legitimisation [*Lords*] -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment).	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney.
Pontypridd Urban District Council [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Portishead District Water [*Lords*] - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Port Talbot Railway and Docks - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Royal Bank of Scotland]*Lords*] - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Mr. Crombie. Sir Chandos Leigh.

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Royal Insurance Company [*Lords*]	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Selsey Water [*Lords*]	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Shanklin Gas	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Simon-Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company, Limited [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Lord Robert Cecil. Mr. Beale. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Society of Apothecaries of London [*Lords*]	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Crombie. Mr. Beale. Sir Chandos Leigh.
South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways.	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Staveley Coal and Iron Company [*Lords*]	1	Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
St. Neot's Urban District Council [*Lords*]	1	Deputy Chairman. Mr. Crombie. Mr. Beale. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Sutton Coldfield Rectory [*Lords*]	1	
*Tees Conservancy [*Lords*]	2	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Tyne Improvement [*Lords*]	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Mr. Crombie. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Tynemouth Corporation Water [*Lords*]	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Lord Robert Cecil. Sir Chandos Leigh.

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* Re-committed.

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier [*Lords*] -	1	
West Riding Tramways [*Lords*] - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Paulton. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
West Yorkshire Tramways [*Lords*] - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Paulton. Lord Robert Cecil. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Wisbech Water [*Lords*] - - - -	1	Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
*York (Micklegate St. Mary's) [*Lords*] -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.

* Re-committed to a Select Committee of seven Members, nominated by the House.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (1907).

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
anal Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation [*Lords*].	1	Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
ducation Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London No. 1) [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
ducation Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London No. 2) [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, &c.) [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
lectric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2) [*Lords*].	1	
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 4) [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5).	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Lord Robert Cecil. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [*Lords*].	1	
Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 1) -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney.
Land Drainage Provisional Order (No. 2) -	1	
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1).	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2).	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Crombie. Mr. Beale. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3).	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5).	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Crombie. Mr. Beale. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4).	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7).	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9).	1	
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10).	2	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12).	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Mr. Paulton Sir Chandos Leigh.
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15).	1	
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No 2).	1	Deputy Chairman. Mr. Beale. Mr. Crombie. Sir Chandos Leigh.
London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market).	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Marriages Provisional Order - - -	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney.
Metropolitan Police Provisional Order -	1	

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 1) [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Hills. Mr. Mooney. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) [*Lords*].	1	Chairman of Ways and Means. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Paulton. Sir Chandos Leigh.
Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 4) [*Lords*]	1	
Tramways Orders Confirmation [*Lords*] -	1	

House of Commons.
1907.

EVERARD H. DOYLE,
Principal Clerk of Committees.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILLS.

Session 1907.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	Number of Days on which each Member attended.
Chairman of Ways and Means (Mr. Emmott)	15
Deputy Chairman (Mr. Caldwell)	17
Mr. Beale	6
Sir David Brynmor Jones	0
Lord Robert Cecil	3
Mr. Crombie	2
Mr. Hills	6
Mr. Mooney	7
Mr. Paulton	6
Sir Chandos Leigh	16

The Committee sat on 17 days.

Department of Chairman of Committee of Ways and Means, August, 1907.

RUPERT COLOMB.

Number of Bills referred to the Committee on Unopposed Bills by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills	69
Number of Provisional Order Bills reported on by the Committee on Unopposed Bills	32
Total	101

SUMMARY FOR ROYAL ASSENT.

SESSION, 1907.

CLASSIFICATION.	April 24.	July 4.	July 26.	August 2.	August 9.	August 28.	Total.
Railways - - - - - -	0	7	5	2	3	2	20
Tramways - - - - - -	0	3	1	2	0	1	7
Tramroads - - - - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subways - - - - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canals and Navigations - -	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Roads and Bridges - - -	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Water - - - - - -	0	4	3	2	3	2	16
Waterworks - - - - -	0	0	2	0	1	0	3
Gas - - - - - - -	0	9	2	1	0	1	13
Gas and Water - - - -	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Lighting and Improvement -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police and Sanitary Regulations	0	0	5	3	0	2	11
Corporations, &c. (not relating to Police and Sanitary Regulations, or to Lighting and Improvement Schemes).	0	3	2	1	0	0	6
Ports, Piers, Harbours, and Docks - - - - - -	0	2	1	0	0	1	5
Churches, Chapels, and Burying Grounds - - - - - -	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Markets and Fairs - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gaols and other County Buildings - - - - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inclosure and Drainage - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estates - - - - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Divorce - - - - - -	2	1	2	0	0	0	5
Naturalisation - - - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospitals - - - - - -	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Patent - - - - - -	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Name - - - - - - -	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Legitimisation - - - - -	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Miscellaneous - - - - -	1	11	0	5	2	5	25
TOTAL - -	3	45	29	17	9	14	123

GENERAL SUMMARY OF RETURNS RELATING TO PRIVATE BUSINESS FOR SESSION 1907.

(A.)—Number of Private Bills introduced into the House of Commons	67
,, ,, brought from the House of Lords to the House of Commons	62
,, ,, Estate Bills, brought from the House of Lords	0
,, ,, Divorce Bills, brought from the House of Lords	5
,, ,, Naturalisation Bills, brought from the House of Lords	0
,, ,, Patent	1
,, ,, Name	1
,, ,, Legitimisation	1
,, ,, Provisional Order Confirmation Bills, introduced into the House of Commons	32
,, ,, Hybrid Bills	2
TOTAL	171

(B.)—Number of Private Bills	which have received the Royal Assent	123
,, Provisional Order Bills		55
,, Hybrid Bills		2
,, Private Bills	passed in the House of Commons, and not passed in the House of Lords	1
,, Provisional Order Bills		—
,, Hybrid Bills		—
,, Private Bills	which have been withdrawn or not proceeded with by the Parties	10
,, Provisional Order Bills		—
,, Hybrid Bills		—
,, Private Bills	which have not passed Standing Orders Committee or have been rejected in the House	—
,, Provisional Order Bills		—
,, Hybrid Bills		—
,, Private Bills	which have been rejected in Committee	3
,, Provisional Order Bills		—
,, Hybrid Bills		—
	TOTAL	194

(C.)—Number of Private Bills	reported on by Committees on Opposed Bills	60
,, Provisional Order Bills		7
,, Hybrid Bills reported on by Committees nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection		2
	TOTAL	69

Number of Private Bills	reported on by Committee on Unopposed Bills	69
,, Provisional Order Bills		32
	TOTAL	101

JOHN H. SOMERSET,
Principal Clerk.

Private Bill Office,
28th August 1907.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (DAYS OCCUPIED BY GOVERNMENT AND BY PRIVATE MEMBERS).

RETURN showing, with reference to Session 1907:—(1) the Number of Sittings at which Government Business had Precedence under the Standing Orders during the entire Sitting; (2) the Number of Sittings on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at which Precedence was given to Government Business up till 8.15 p.m. and to Private Members, at 8.15 p.m., and the Number of Sittings on Fridays at which Private Members had Precedence under the Standing Orders; (3) the Number of Sittings at which Government Business was given Precedence under a Special Order of the House during the entire Sitting; (4) the Number of Saturday Sittings; (5) the Total Number of Sittings at which Government Business had Precedence; (6) the Total Number of Days on which the House Sat; and (7) the Number of Days on which Business of Supply was considered (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 384, of Session 1906).

SESSION 1907.

Tuesday, 12th February (First day of Meeting not included).

(1.)—The Number of SITTINGS at which GOVERNMENT BUSINESS had Precedence under the Standing Orders, during the entire Sitting.

Month.	Mondays.	Tuesdays.	Wednesdays.	Thursdays.	Fridays.	Total.
FEBRUARY - -	18th 25th	—	—	14th 21st 28th	—	5 Sittings.
MARCH - - -	4th 11th 18th 25th	—	—	7th 14th	—	6 Sittings.
APRIL - - -	8th 15th 22nd 29th	9th 16th 23rd 30th	—	— 25th	—	9 Sittings.
MAY - - -	6th 13th 27th	7th 14th 28th	— 29th	2nd 9th *16th 23rd 30th	— 24th 31st	14 Sittings.
JUNE - - -	3rd 10th 17th 24th	4th 11th 18th 25th	5th 12th 19th 26th	20th 27th	21st 28th	16 Sittings.
JULY - - -	1st 8th 15th 22nd 29th	2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th	3rd 10th 17th 24th 31st	4th 11th 18th 25th	5th 12th 19th 26th	23 Sittings.
AUGUST- - -	5th 12th 19th 26th	6th 13th 20th 27th	7th 14th 21st 28th	1st 8th 15th 22nd Prorogation.	2nd 9th 16th 23rd	20 Sittings.
Total - - -	26	20	14	21	12	93

* Adjournment of the House for the Whitsun recess. House counted out at 7.28 p.m.

(2.)—The Number of SITTINGS on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, at which Precedence was given to GOVERNMENT BUSINESS up till 8.15 p.m. and to PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS at 8.15 p.m., and the Number of SITTINGS on Fridays, at which PRIVATE MEMBERS had Precedence under the Standing Orders.

SITTINGS at which Precedence was given to GOVERNMENT BUSINESS up till 8.15 p.m.

Month.	Tuesdays.	Wednesdays.	Total.
FEBRUARY - - - - - - -	26th	27th	2 Sittings.
MARCH - - - - - - -	5th 12th 19th 26th	6th 13th 20th 27th	8 Sittings.
APRIL - - - - - - -	—	10th 17th 24th	3 Sittings.
MAY - - - - - - - -	—	1st 8th 15th	3 Sittings
Total - - -	5	11	16

SITTINGS on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at which Precedence was given at 8.15 p.m. to PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS.

Month.	Tuesdays.	Wednesdays.	Total.
FEBRUARY - - - - - - -	26th	27th	2 Sittings.
MARCH - - - - - - -	5th 12th 19th 26th	6th 13th 20th 27th	8 Sittings.
APRIL - - - - - - -	—	10th 17th 24th	3 Sittings.
MAY - - - - - - - -	—	1st 8th 15th	3 Sittings.
Total - - -	5	11	16

SITTINGS on Fridays at which PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS had Precedence under the Standing Orders.

Month.	Fridays.	Total.
FEBRUARY - - - - - - - -	22nd	1 Sitting.
MARCH - - - - - - - - -	1st 8th 15th 22nd	4 Sittings.
APRIL - - - - - - - -	12th 19th 26th	3 Sittings.
MAY - - - - - - - - -	*3rd 10th	2 Sittings.
JUNE - - - - - - - - -	7th 14th	2 Sittings.
Total - - - - -	12	12

* House counted out at 4 p.m.

Not under the Standing Orders.

NIL.

Total Number of Sittings at which PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS was given precedence during the Session - - - 28

(3.)—The Number of SITTINGS at which GOVERNMENT BUSINESS had Precedence under a SPECIAL ORDER of the HOUSE during the entire SITTING.

Page 16 of the Votes, 13th February 1907.

Ordered, "That the proceedings on the Address in Answer to His Majesty's Speech, "shall, until concluded, have Precedence of all other Orders of the Day, and of Notices "of Motions at all Sittings for which they are set down."

Wednesday, 13th February, till 8.15 p.m. under Standing Order, from 8.15 p.m. under Special Order.

Friday, 15th February.

Tuesday, 19th February, till 8.15 p.m. under Standing Order, from 8.15 p.m. under Special Order.

Wednesday, 20th February, till 8.15 p.m. under Standing Order, from 8.15 p.m. under Special Order.

Page 148 of the Votes, 22nd March 1907.

Sittings of the House,—Motion made and Question put, "That this House do meet "To-morrow at Twelve of the clock, and that on conclusion of Government Business, Mr. Speaker do Adjourn the House without Question put;"—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman*:) —The House *divided*; Ayes 219, Noes 54.

Saturday, 23rd March.

Page 189 of the Votes, 11th April 1907.

Business of the House (Supply)—Motion made, and Question put, "That the Proceedings "on the Consideration of the Business of the House (Procedure) have precedence this Day of the "Business of Supply:"—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman*:)—The House *divided*; Ayes 324, Noes 89.

Thursday, 11th April.

Page 223 of the Votes, 18th April 1907.

Business of the House (Ways and Means),—*Ordered*, "That the Committee of Ways and Means have precedence this Day of the Business of Supply."

Thursday, 18th April.

Page 400 of the Votes, 6th June 1907.

Business of the House (Supply),—*Ordered*, "That the consideration of the East India "Revenue Accounts have precedence this Day of the Business of Supply."

Thursday, 6th June.

Page 430 of the Votes, 13th June 1907.

Business of the House (Supply],—*Ordered*, "That the Proceedings on the Small Holdings "and Allotments Bill have Precedence this Day of the Business of Supply."

Thursday, 13th June.

Total, 9 Sittings.

(4.) The Number of SATURDAY SITTINGS.

23rd March.

Total, 1.

(5.)—The Total Number of SITTINGS at which GOVERNMENT BUSINESS had Precedence.

	No of Sittings.
Under the Standing Orders during the entire Sitting	93
On Tuesdays and Wednesdays up till 8.15 p.m.	16
Under a Special Order of the House during the entire Sitting	9
Total	118

Exclusive of

(6.)—The Total Number of DAYS on which the HOUSE Sat—131.

(7.)—The Number of DAYS on which Business of Supply was considered.

IN COMMITTEE.

Thursday	21st February
Tuesday	26th February.
Wednesday	27th February.
*Thursday	28th February.
Tuesday	5th March.
Wednesday	6th March.
*Thursday	7th March.
*Monday	11th March.
*Monday	8th April.
*Thursday	25th April.
*Thursday	2nd May.
*Thursday	9th May.
*Thursday	16th May.
*Thursday	23rd May.
*Thursday	30th May.
*Tuesday	11th June.
*Thursday (Part of 13th Allotted Day)	20th June.
*Thursday	27th June.
*Thursday	4th July.
*Thursday	11th July.
*Thursday	18th July.
*Thursday	25th July.
*Tuesday (Grant to Earl of Cromer)	30th July.
Wednesday	31st July.
ON REPORT:	
*Thursday	14th March.
*Thursday (Part of 13th Allotted Day)	20th June.
*Thursday	1st August.

Total - - - - 26 days.

SUPPLY—SESSION 1907.

SUMMARY.

Class of Estimates, 1906–1907.	No. of Votes.	Sittings of Committee.	No. of Votes agreed to.	Total No. of Votes agreed to.
Army Supplementary 1906–1907	1	Mar. 6	1	1
Civil Service Supplementary 1906–1907	9	Feb. 21	7	9
		,, 26	2	
Total	10	3	10	10
Estimates, 1907–1908.				
Navy (including vote for men)	18	Mar. 5	0	18
		,, 7	2	
		April 25	3	
		June 11	1	
		July 31	12	
Army (including vote for men and Ordnance Factories)	18	Feb. 27	0	18
		,, 28	2	
		June 11	3	
		July 31	13	
Civil Services (vote on account)	1	Mar. 11	1	1
Civil Services :				
Class I. (including 1 Supplementary)	17	April 8	10	17
		May 16	1	
		July 31	6	
,, II. (including 1 Supplementary)	40	May 2	2	40
		,, 16	3	
		,, 23	1	
		,, 30	3	
		June 20	0	
		,, 27	1	
		July 18	0	
		,, 25	1	
		,, 31	29	
,, III.	22	May 2	1	22
		,, 23	3	
		July 31	18	
,, IV. (including 2 Supplementary)	13	July 4	0	13
		,, 11	0	
		,, 31	13	
,, V. (including an additional estimate for new Service and 1 Supplementary)	5	July 31	5	5
,, VI.	4	May 16	2	4
		July 31	2	
,, VII. (including 2 Supplementary)	6	July 31	6	6
Earl of Cromer	1	July 30	1	1
Revenue Departments	3	May 9	0	3
		,, 16	2	
		July 31	1	
Total	148	21	148	148

ALLOTTED DAYS ON WHICH SUPPLY HAS BEEN CONSIDERED.

			Votes agreed to.
Thursday	Feb. 28	Army	2
,,	Mar. 7	Navy	2
Monday	,, 11	Vote on Account	1
Thursday	,, 14	Reports.	
Monday	April 8	Civil Services, Class 1	10
Thursday	,, 25	Navy	3
,,	May 2	Civil Services, Class 3	1
		,, Class 2	2
,,	,, 9	Revenue Departments	0
,,	,, 16	Civil Services, Class 1	1
		,, Class 2	3
		,, Class 6	2
		Revenue Departments	2
,,	,, 23	Civil Services, Class 2	1
		,, Class 3	3
,,	,, 30	,, Class 2	3
Tuesday	June 11	Navy	1
		Army	3
Thursday	,, 20	Reports.	
		Civil Services, Class 2	0
,,	,, 27	,, ,,	1
,,	July 4	,, Class 4	0
,,	,, 11	,, ,,	0
,,	,, 18	,, Class 2	0
,,	,, 25	,, ,,	1
Wednesday	,, 31	Civil Services, Class 1	6
		,, Class 2	29
		,, Class 3	18
		,, Class 4	13
		,, Class 5	5
		,, Class 6	2
		,, Class 7	6
		Navy	12
		Army (including Ordnance Factories)	13
		Revenue Departments	1
Thursday	Aug. 1	Reports.	

SUMMARY.

—	Number.
Total Number of Sittings at which Government Business had Precedence during the Session	*118
Total Number of Sittings at which Private Members' Business had Precedence during the Session	†28
Total Number of Saturday Sittings	1
Total Number of Days on which the House Sat	131
Total Number of Days on which the Business of Supply was considered	26

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* Tuesday, 12th February, first day of meeting not included.

† Of which 16 were sittings on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after 8.15 p.m.

WILLIAM H. LEY,
Clerk of the Journals.

28*th August*, 1907.

CLOSURE OF DEBATE (STANDING ORDER No. 26).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 19 August, 1907;—*for*,

RETURN respecting Application of Standing Order No. 26 (Closure of Debate) during the Session of 1907 (1) in the House and in Committee of the Whole House, under the following heads:—

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
20th Feb.	Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.	King's Speech (Motion for an Address) - - - - "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth:— Most Gracious Sovereign,— "We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament:"— Amendment proposed, at the end of the Question, to add the words, "But humbly express our regret that whilst five per cent. of the most highly skilled artisans are out of employment, and the Unemployed Workmen Act has proved inadequate to deal with distress due to lack of employment, no mention is made in Your Majesty's Gracious Speech of any proposals for dealing with this serious and menacing evil." "That these words be there added."	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure agreed to.

22nd Feb.	Sir William Brampton Gurdon.	Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill - - - "That the Bill be now read a second time." Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months." "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.		
22nd Feb.	Sir William Brampton Gurdon.	Ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 255; Noes, 40.
22nd Feb.	Mr. Clough.	Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) Bill - - - - - "That the Bill be now read a second time."	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.		
25th Feb.	Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.	Adjournment Motion, under Standing Order No. 10. (Judgeship in the High Court of Justice in Ireland.) "That this House do now adjourn.' - - - -	In House .	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 250; Noes, 57.
26th Feb.	Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.	Supply - - - - - - - - - - Civil Services (Supplementary) Estimates, 1906-7. Class V. "That a supplementary sum, not exceeding £32,470 be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for sundry Colonial Services, including certain Grants in Aid." "That a sum, not exceeding £31,470, be granted for the said Service." The above proposed Amendment having been negatived on Division:—	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 312; Noes, 81.
26th Feb.	Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.	Claimed - - - - - - - - - - "That the original Question be now put."	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Original Question put accordingly.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
26th Feb.	Mr. Lloyd-George.	Claimed - - - - - - - - - - “That the original Question be now put.” Class VII. “That a supplementary sum, not exceeding £10,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the salaries and other expenses of temporary commissioners, committees, and special inquiries.” “That a sum, not exceeding £9,000, be granted for the said service.” The above proposed Amendment having been negatived on Division:—	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 237; Noes, 48.
26th Feb.	Mr. Lloyd-George.	Claimed - - - - - - - - - - “That the original Question be now put.”	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Original Question put accordingly.
1st Mar.	Mr. Ramsay Macdonald.	Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland) Bill - - “That the Bill be now read a second time.” Amendment proposed, to leave out the word “now” at the end of the Question to add the words “upon this day six months.” “That the word ‘now’ stand part of the Question.”	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.		
1st Mar.	Mr. Tyson Wilson.	Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland) Bill - - Ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.		
1st Mar.	Mr. Walter Rea.	Education Acts Amendment Bill - - - - - - “That the Bill be now read a second time.”	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure agreed to.

4th Mar.	Mr. Clough -	Territorial and Reserve Forces - - - - - - "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to provide for the reorganisation of His Majesty's Military Forces, and for that purpose to authorise the establishment of County Associations and the raising and maintenance of a Territorial Force, and for amending the Acts relating to the Reserve Forces."	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.	
5th Mar.	Mr. Edmund Robertson.	Supply (Navy Estimates) - - - - - - "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."	In House -	- - - -	Mr. Speaker withheld his assent, as it appeared to him that the House was prepared shortly to come to a decision on the Question.
5th Mar.	Mr. Lief Jones -	Sunday Closing - - - - - - - - "That, with a view to limit the excessive hours of work on licensed premises, to diminish drinking, to prevent unfair competition with other traders, and to secure a better observance of Sunday, this House records its opinion that licensed premises in England, as in other parts of the British Empire, should be closed on Sundays."	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.	
8th Mar.	Mr. Dickinson -	Women's Enfranchisement Bill - - - - - "That the Bill be now read a second time." Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now" and at the end of the question to add the words "upon this day six months." "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.	
8th Mar.	Mr. Dickinson -	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - - -	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.	

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
8th Mar.	Mr. Dickinson -	Women's Enfranchisement Bill—*cont.* - - - -	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.		
8th Mar.	Mr. Dickinson -	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - - -	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.		
20th Mar.	Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.	Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill (Order) - - - - "That the Bill be now read a third time." Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months." "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 216; Noes, 54.
20th Mar.	Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.	The above proposed Amendment having been negatived in Division:— Claimed,— "That the Main Question be now put."	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - -	Main Question put accordingly.
20th Mar.	Mr. Secretary Haldane	Army (Annual) Bill - - - - - - - Clause 1— "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 196; Noes, 55.
20th Mar.	Mr. Secretary Haldane	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - - - Clause 2—	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Divison: Ayes, 183; Noes, 49.

		Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 36, to leave out from the word "the" to the word "one" in line 37, and insert the words "thirtieth day of April." "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."			
20th Mar.	Mr. Secretary Haldane	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - - -	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 182; Noes, 49.
		Clause 2— Claimed to move "That the Question 'That the Clause stand part of the Bill,' be now put."				
20th Mar.	Mr. Secretary Haldane.	Ditto - - - - - - - ditto - - - - -	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 181; Noes, 47.
		Clause 3— "That the Question 'That the Clause stand part of the Bill' be now put."				
20th Mar.	Mr. Secretary Haldane.	Ditto - - - - - - - ditto - - - - -	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 182; Noes, 47.
		Clause 4— "That the Clause stand part of the Bill." "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."				
20th Mar.	Mr. Secretary Haldane.	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - - -	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 197; Noes, 37.
		"That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."				
20th Mar.	Mr. Secretary Haldane.	Ditto - - - - ditto - - - - -	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 204; Noes, 37.
		"That the Question 'That the words of the Clause to the end of page 6, line 7, stand part of the Clause,' be now put."				
20th Mar.	Mr. Secretary Haldane.	Ditto - - - - - - - ditto - - - - - - "That the Question 'That the Clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill' be now put."	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 217; Noes, 45.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
20th Mar.	Mr. Secretary Haldane.	Army (Annual) Bill—*cont.* - - - - - - "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 230; Noes, 47.
20th Mar.	Mr. Secretary Haldane	Ditto - - - - ditto - - - - - New Clause (Amendment of Army Act, as to Desertion, Fraudulent Enlistment, and Absence without Leave). "That the Clause be read a second time."	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 232; Noes, 52.
20th Mar.	Mr. Secretary Haldane	Ditto - - - - ditto - - - - - Another New Clause (Amendment of Army Act as to Fraudulent Enlistment). "That the Clause be read a second time."	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 244; Noes, 57.
20th Mar.	Mr. Buchanan -	Ditto - - - - ditto - - - - - Another New Clause (Additional Penalty on interference with recruiting). "That the Clause be read a second time."	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 272; Noes, 57.
26th Mar.	Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.	Business of the House (Procedure) - - - - - "(1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to one of the Standing Committees, unless the House, on Motion to be decided without Amendment or debate, otherwise order. But this Order shall not apply to— (*a*) Bills for imposing taxes, or Consolidated Fund, or Appropriation Bills; or (*b*) Bills for confirming Provisional Orders.	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 253; Noes, 58.

		(2) The House may, on Motion made by the Member in charge of a Bill, commit the Bill to a Standing Committee in respect of some of its provisions, and to a Committee of the Whole House in respect of other provisions. If such a Motion is opposed, the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who makes and from the Member who opposes the Motion, shall without further debate put the Question thereon." Amendment proposed, in line 5, after the word "taxes," to insert the words "or rates or charges on rates." "That those words be there inserted."				
26th Mar.	Mr. Bennett -	Incidence of Taxation - - - - - - - "That in the opinion of this House, having regard to the wealth of the United Kingdom and the nature of its distribution, it is necessary to readjust the burden of taxation in order to make provision for social reforms which are urgently needed."	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.		
26th Mar.	Mr. Bennett -	Incidence of Taxation - - - - - - - Ditto - - - - ditto - - - - -	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.		
27th Mar.	Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.	Adjournment of the House (Easter) - - - - "That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn until Monday 8th April.	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure agreed to.
11th April	Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.	Business of the House (Procedure) - - - - - "(1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to one of the Standing Committees, unless the House, on Motion to be decided without Amendment or debate otherwise order, and such a Motion shall not require notice, must be made immediately after the Bill is read a second time, may be made by any Member, and may, though opposed, be decided after the expiration of the time for	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 313; Noes, 81.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
11th April	Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.	Business of the House (Procedure)—*continued.* opposed business. But this Order shall not apply to— (*a*) Bills for imposing taxes, or Consolidated Fund or Appropriation Bills; or (*b*) Bills for confirming Provisional Orders. (2) The House may, on Motion made by the Member in charge of a Bill, commit the Bill to a Standing Committee in respect of some of its provisions, and to a Committee of the Whole House in respect of other provisions. If such a Motion is opposed, the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who makes and from the Member who opposes the Motion, shall without further Debate put the Question thereon." Amendment proposed, in line 9, after the word "Bills," to insert the words "or Bills involving any aid, grant, or charge upon the public revenue, whether payable out of the Consolidated Fund or out of money to be provided by Parliament, or involving any charge upon the people." "That those words be there inserted."				
12th April	Mr. Walsh -	Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill - - - - - "That the Bill be now read a second time."	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 273; Noes, 34.
15th April	Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.	Business of the House (Procedure) (Termination of Proceedings thereon). "That the Proceedings on the Motions with respect to Business of the House (Procedure) shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on Tuesday, the 16th day of April,	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 306; Noes, 90.

		in the following manner, and subject to the following provisions :— 1. At 10 p.m. on that day, Mr. Speaker shall put forthwith the Question on any Amendment or other Motion already proposed from the Chair, and shall next proceed successively to put forthwith the Question on any Amendments or other Motions moved by the Government of which notice has been given (but on no other Amendment or Motion), and on any other Question necessary to dispose of the proceedings to be concluded ; 2. On that day the proceedings to which this Order relates shall not be interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House ; 3. On that day no dilatory Motion, nor Motion for Adjournment under Standing Order No. 10, shall be received unless moved by a Minister of the Crown, and the Question on any such Motion shall be put forthwith without debate ; 4. Any opposed Private Business which has been set down for consideration on that day shall stand adjourned without Question put until such other day as the Chairman of Ways and Means may determine." Amendment proposed, in line 2, after the word "Procedure," to insert the words "other than so much of such Motions as refer to the establishment of a Welsh and Monmouthshire Committee and which apply the Standing Orders 26 and 27 (Closure) to the Standing Committees." "That those words be there inserted."				
19th April	Mr. John Redmond.	Land Law (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill - - - "That the Bill be now read a second time."	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 209 ; Noes, 62.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
23rd April	Mr. Secretary Haldane.	Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill - - - - - "That the Bill be now read a second time."	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure agreed to.
24th April	Mr. Lonsdale -	Sir Horace Plunkett - - - - - - - "That the position of Vice-President of the Board of Agriculture in Ireland was intended by Parliament to be and in fact is a Ministerial and Parliamentary office, properly vacated upon a change of Government, and that the retention of that office by a political opponent of the Government of the day is undesirable as a permanent arrangement." Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "That," to the end of the Question, and add the words "in view of the continued confidence expressed in the policy of Sir Horace Plunkett by the Council of Agriculture, two-thirds of whose Members are directly appointed by the county councils of Ireland, it is inadvisable, before the House has had an opportunity of considering carefully the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the organisation and working of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, to make any change in Sir Horace Plunkett's tenure of the Vice-Presidency." "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	In House -	- - -	The Speaker withheld his assent, and declined to put that Question, as it appeared to him that the House was prepared to come to a decision without that Motion.	
24th April	Mr. John Redmond.	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - - - "That the position of Vice-President of the Board of Agriculture in Ireland was intended by Parliament to be and in fact is a Ministerial and	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure agreed to.

		Parliamentary office, properly vacated upon a change of Government, and that the retention of that office by a political opponent of the Government of the day is undesirable as a permanent arrangement."				
26th April	Mr. Robert Balfour.	Liquor Traffic (Local Option) (Scotland) Bill - - - "That the Bill be now read a second time." Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "That," to the end of the Question, and add the words "This House declines to proceed further with a measure which will cause dislocation and insecurity amongst those engaged in the licensed victualling trade without any compensating advantage to the public, which leaves the right of supplying alcoholic liquor in clubs and dispensaries unrestricted, and which will deprive brewers, licensees, and the investing public of their property without compensation. "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 276; Noes, 106.
26th April	Mr. Robert Balfour.	The above proposed Amendment having been negatived on Division - - - - - - Claimed— That "the Main Question be now put."	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Main Question put accordingly.
7th May	Mr. Birrell -	Irish Council - - - - - - - - - "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to provide for the Establishment and Functions of an Administrative Council in Ireland; and for other purposes connected therewith."	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 417; Noes, 121.
9th May	Sir Frederick Banbury.	London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill (by Order) "That the Bill be now read a second time." Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months." "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.		

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
10th May	Mr. William Lever.	Old Age Pensions Bill - - - - - - - "That the Bill be now read a second time." Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "That," to the end of the Question. in order to add the words "this House declines to proceed further with the measure which would enormously add to the national expenditure until the country has had an opportunity of saying whether it is willing to bear the necessary burden of taxation." "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	In House -	- - - -	Mr. Speaker withheld his assent as it appeared to him that the House was prepared to come to a decision without that Motion.	
24th May	Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.	Small Landholders (Scotland) (Salaries) - - - - "That, for carrying out the provisions of any Act of the present Session to encourage the formation of Small Agricultural Holdings in Scotland, it is expedient to authorise— (i.) the payment, out of the Consolidated Fund, of the salaries of the chairman and of each of the other members of the Land Court; (ii.) the payment out of moneys provided by Parliament, of— (*a*) the salaries and remuneration of the Agricultural Commissioners and other persons appointed or employed by them and by the Land Court, and the expenses incurred by the Land Court and the Agricultural Commissioners in the execution of their duties; (*b*) an annual sum not exceeding eighty-five thousand pounds for the use of the Agricultural Commissioners;	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 115; Noes, 15.

		(*c*) compensation in certain cases to members and officers of the Crofters Commission.”				
27th May	Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman.	Small Landholders (Scotland) (Salaries) — Resolution *reported* - - - - - - - - - “That, for carrying out the provisions of any Act of the present Session to encourage the formation of Small Agricultural Holdings in Scotland, it is expedient to authorise— (i.) the payment, out of the Consolidated Fund, of the salaries of the chairman and each of the other members of the Land Court; (ii.) the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of— (*a*) the salaries and remuneration of the Agricultural Commissioners and other persons appointed or employed by them and by the Land Court, and the expenses incurred by the Land Court and the Agricultural Commissioners in the execution of their duties; (*b*) an annual sum not exceeding eighty-five thousand pounds for the use of the Agricultural Commissioners; (*c*) compensation in certain cases to members and officers of the Crofters Commission.” Resolution read a second time. Amendment proposed, in Paragraph 2 (*a*), line 10, at the end, to insert the words “Provided that the expenses in connection with the Agricultural Commissioners shall not exceed five thousand pounds.” “That these words be there inserted.”	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 273; Noes, 80.
27th May	- - - -	The above proposed amendment having been negatived on Division:—				
	Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman.	Claimed - - - - - - - - - “That the Main Question be now put.”	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Main Question put accordingly.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
7th June	Sir Henry Fowler.	Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill On consideration as amended by the Standing Committee— "That the Bill be recommitted to a Select Committee."	In House	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 179; Noes, 27.
7th June	Sir William Brampton Gurdon.	Ditto - - - - - - Ditto Another Clause (Application of Act), brought up and read the first time. "That the Clause be read a second time."	In House	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 215; Noes, 34.
28th June	Mr. Attorney-General.	Criminal Appeal (Expenses) "That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the salaries of the Registrar of the Court of Criminal Appeal and his staff appointed under any Act of the present Session to establish a Court of Criminal Appeal and to amend the law relating to Appeals in Criminal Cases, and of the expense of taking shorthand notes and of making transcripts in pursuance of such Act."	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 193; Noes, 29.
2nd July	Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.	Finance Bill Clause 11:— "That the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill."	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 309; Noes, 89.
22nd July	Mr. T. L. Corbett.	Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill Amendment proposed, in page 1, line 18, to leave	In Committee	The Chairman's assent withheld.		

		out the words "May nineteen hundred and seven," and insert the words "January nineteen hundred and eight." "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."				
26th July	Mr. Markham -	Business of the House - - - - - - - "That, for the remainder of the Session, Government Business be not interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the Sittings of the House, and may be entered upon at any hour, though opposed; that at the conclusion of Government Business each day, Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without question put; and that no Motions be made to bring in Bills under Standing Order No. 11."	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.		
26th July	Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman.	Ditto - - - - - - Ditto - - - - -	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 236; Noes, 57.
5th Aug.	Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.	Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill (Allocation of Time) - "That the Report stage of the Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill be brought to a conclusion in three allotted days: and— (*a*) That the new Clauses and Clauses 1 to 16 of the Bill be proceeded with and proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the first allotted day; and (*b*) That Clauses 7 to 15 of the Bill (if and so far as not previously disposed of), be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the second allotted day; and (*c*) That the remaining Clauses of the Bill and the Schedules, and any other matters necessary to bring the Report stage of the Bill to a conclusion (if and so far as not previously disposed of), be proceeded with on the third allotted day and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on that day.	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 177; Noes, 57.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
5th Aug.	Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman.	Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill (Allocation of Time)—*continued.* Any day on which the Small Landowners (Scotland) Bill is put down the first Order of the Day shall be considered an allotted day for the purposes of this Order, &c., &c."				
14th Aug.	Mr. Markham -	Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill - - - On consideration, as amended by the Standing Committee— Amendment proposed, in page 1, line 7, to leave out Clause 1 of the Bill. "That the word 'no' stand part of the Bill."	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.		
14th Aug.	Sir Henry Fowler	Ditto - - - - - - ditto - - - - - -	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.		
14th Aug.	Mr. John Ward	Ditto - - - - - - ditto - - - - - "That the Debate be now adjourned."	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.		
14th Aug.	Mr. Secretary Haldane.	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - - - Claimed to move— "That the Question, 'That the words of the Bill to the end of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill,' be now put."	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 172; Noes, 19.
19th Aug.	Mr. Secretary Gladstone.	Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill - - - "That the Bill be now read the third time."	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 104; Noes, 16.

20th Aug.	The Lord Advocate.	Land Values (Scotland) Bill On consideration, as amended by the Standing Committee :— A Clause (Adoption of Act)—(Mr. Harold Cox)—brought up, and read the first time :— "That the Clause be read a second time."	In House	The Speaker's assent given.		Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 248 ; Noes, 51.

RETURN respecting Application of Standing Order No. 26 (Closure of Debate) during Session 1907—*continued.*

SUMMARY.

1. Session.	2. Name of Member by whom Closure Moved, and Number of Times Moved.	3. Total Number of Times Closure Moved.	4. Number of Times Closure Moved in House.	5. Number of Times Assent given to Closure by Mr. Speaker or Deputy Speaker.	6. Number of Times Assent withheld by Mr. Speaker or Deputy Speaker.	7. Number of Times Closure Moved in Committee.	8. Number of Times Assent given to Closure by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman.	9. Number of Times Assent withheld by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman.	10. Number of Times Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	11. Number of Times Closure Carried on Division.	12. Number of Times Closure Negatived on Division.	13. Number of Times Closure Agreed to without a Division.	14. Number of Times Closure not in order.
1907.	Lord Advocate, The - 1	66	46	26	20	20	19	1	*3	35	0	†10	0
	Mr. Attorney-General - 1												
	Mr. Robert Balfour - 2												
	Mr. Bennett - - 2												
	Mr. Birrell - - - 1												
	Mr. Buchanan - - 1												
	Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer - - 9												
	Mr. Clough - - - 2												
	Mr. T. L. Corbett - 1												
	Mr. Dickinson - - 4												
	Mr. Lloyd-George - 2												
	Mr. Leif Jones - - 1												
	Mr. Wm. Lever - - 1												
	Mr. Lonsdale - - 1												
	Mr. Ramsay Macdonald 1												
	Mr, Markham - - 2												
	Mr. Walter Rea - - 1												
	Mr. John Redmond - 2												
	Mr. Edmund Robertson 1												
	Mr. Secretary Gladstone - - - - 1												
	Mr. Secretary Haldane 13												
	Mr. Walsh - - - 1												
	Mr. John Ward - - 1												
	Mr. Tyson Wilson - 1												

Sir Frederick Banbury	1
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman - - -	7
Sir Henry Fowler -	2
Sir Wm. Brampton Gurdon - - - -	3
	66

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* Included in columns 6 and 9.

† Including 3 Main and 2 original Questions claimed to be put.

WILLIAM H. LEY,
Clerk of the Journals.

28 *August* 1907.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCOTTISH BILLS.

RETURN respecting APPLICATION of STANDING ORDER No. 26 (CLOSURE of DEBATE) in STANDING COMMITTEE during SESSION 1907.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
28th May	Mr. Sinclair -	Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill - - - - - - - - - Clause 1 :— Amendment proposed, in page 1, line 9, after the word "effect," to insert the words "in crofting parishes." "That those words be there inserted."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 29 ; Noes, 11.
30th May	Mr. M'Crae -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 1 :— Amendment proposed, at the end of the Clause to add the words "wherever it is proved to the satisfaction of the Land Court that "the tenants have provided the main part of the permanent "improvements existing on the holding." "That those words be there added."	- - - -	Chairman's assent withheld, as it appeared to him that the Committee was prepared to come to a decision without that Motion.	
4th June	Mr. Morton -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."	Chairman's assent withheld.	- - - -	
4th June	Mr. Sinclair -	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - - - - - - -	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 38 ; Noes, 14.

4th June	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill Clause 2 :— Amendment proposed, to leave out subsection (1) (ii). "That the words 'As from the' stand part of the Clause."	Chairman's assent given.	-	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 37 ; Noes. 17.
6th June	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill "That the Committee at its rising this day do adjourn till 12 o'clock on Tuesday next."	Chairman's assent given.	-	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 35 ; Noes, 17.
6th June	Mr. M'Crae	Same Bill Clause 2 :— "Amendment proposed in page 1, line 20, to leave out the words "who resides," and insert the words "whose only residence is" instead thereof. "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."	Chairman's assent given.	-	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 38 ; Noes, 15.
11th June	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill Clause 2 :— "Amendment proposed, in page 1, line 21, after the word "on" to insert the words "and cultivate."	Chairman's assent given.	-	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 35 ; Noes, 13.
11th June	Mr. M'Crae	Same Bill Clause 2 :— Amendment proposed, in page 1, lines 21 and 22, to leave out the words "by himself or family" and insert the words "with or without hired labour" instead thereof. "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."	Chairman's assent given.	-	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 35 ; Noes, 14.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and if a Division, Numbers, For and Against.
11th June	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 2 :— Amendment proposed, at end of last inserted amendment after the word "labour" to insert the words "and who applies for registration in respect of such holding and is so registered under the provisions of this Act." "That those words be there inserted."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 36 ; Noes, 13.
13th June	Mr. M'Crae -	Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill - - - - - - - - Clause 2 :— Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 1, to leave out the word "every" and insert the words "of a holding, unless the landlord shall have six months before such date intimated to the Agricultural Commissioners his intention to resume occupation of such holding by himself, any." "That the word 'every' stand part of the Clause."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 34 ; Noes, 13.
13th June	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 2 :— Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 9, after the word "and" to insert the words "notwithstanding anything aforesaid, it is hereby declared that any leaseholder who, by himself or his family, has provided the buildings or equipment on his holding shall be a qualified leaseholder as from the commencement of this Act." "That those words be there inserted."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 38 ; Noes, 14.

18th June	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill "That the Committee do now adjourn."	Chairman's assent given.		Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 34; Noes, 14.
18th June	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill Clause 2:— Amendment proposed, to leave out subsection (1) (iv). "That the words 'As from the date' stand part of the Clause."	Chairman's assent given.		Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 39; Noes, 15.
18th June	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill "That Clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."	Chairman's assent given.		Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 34; Noes, 17.
18th June	Mr. Findlay	Same Bill "That Clause 3 be postponed."	Chairman's assent withheld.		
18th June	Mr. Sinclair	Ditto ditto	Chairman's assent given.		Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 42; Noes, 15.
18th June	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill Claimed, "That the Question, 'That all the words of Clause 3 down to and including the word "exceeding" in page 3, line 18, stand part of the Clause,' be now put."	Chairman's assent given.		Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 31; Noes, 17.
18th June	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill Clause 3:— Amendment proposed, in page 3, line 18, to leave out the words "one thousand" in order to insert the words "twelve hundred" instead thereof. "That the words 'one thousand' stand part of the Clause."	Chairman's assent given.		Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 32; Noes, 15.
18th June	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill Claimed, "That the Question 'That Clause 3 as amended stand part of the Bill' be now put."	Chairman's assent given.		Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 37; Noes 15.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before Committee when Moved.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, numbers For and Against.
20th June	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 4 :— Amendment proposed, in page 3, line 36, to leave out the words "Secretary for Scotland" in order to insert the words "President of the Board of Agriculture." "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause".	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 33 ; Noes, 15.
20th June	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Claimed, "That the Question 'That all the words of Clause 4 down to and including the word 'agriculture' in page 4, line 2, stand part of the Clause' be now put."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 35 ; Noes, 15.
20th June	Mr. Sinclair -	"Small Landowners (Scotland) Billl - - - - - - - Clause 4 :— Amendment proposed, to leave out Subsection (3) "That subsection (3) stand part of the Clause."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 33 ; Noes, 12.
20th June	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 4 :— Amendment proposed, in page 4, line 16, after the word "advisable," to insert the words : "(4) The Agricultural Commissioners shall take such steps as they think proper for the promotion and development of agricultural organisation and co-operation." "That those words be there inserted."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 36 ; Noes, 14.

20th June	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 4 :— Amendment proposed, at end of last inserted Amendment to insert the words "including credit banks, trasnport by land and water, and agricultural instruction." "That those words be there inserted."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 37 ; Noes, 14.
25th June	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 4 :— Amendment proposed, in page 4, at end of last inserted Amendment after the word "co-operation" to insert the words "one of the said Agricultural Commissioners shall be an expert in forestry." "That those words be there inserted."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 33 ; Noes, 14.
25th June	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Claimed, "That the Question, 'That all the words of Clause 4 down to and including the word "shall" in page 5, line 5, stand part of the Clause,' be now put."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 33 ; Noes, 14.
25th June	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Claimed, "That the Question, 'That Clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill.'"	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division ; Ayes, 26 ; Noes, 11.
25th June	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 6 :— Amendment proposed, in page 5, line 40, to leave out the words "not exceeding thirty-five," in order to insert the words "of forty" instead thereof. "That the word 'not' stand part of the Clause."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 36 ; Noes, 13.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before Committee when Moved.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
25th June	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill Clause 6 :— Amendment proposed, in page 6, line 4, after the word "if" to insert the words "the supply of water to townships." "That those words be there inserted."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 32 ; Noes, 16.
25th June	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill Claimed "That the Question 'That Clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill' be now put."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 34 ; Noes, 16.
27th June	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill Clause 7 :— Amendment proposed, in page 6, line 31, after the word "exist" to insert the words "and the constitution of small holdings, in accordance with a scheme, will not cause undue displacement of any agricultural labourers and others presently employed on or about such land." "That those words be there inserted."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 37 ; Noes, 13.
27th June	Mr. Sinclair	Small Landholders (Scotland Bill Claimed, "That the Question, 'That all the words of the Clause down to and including the word 'assistance' in page 7, line 13, stand part of the Clause' be now put."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 33 ; Noes, 13.
2nd July	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill Clause 7 :—	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 36 ; Noes, 14.

		Amendment proposed, in page 7, line 18, after the word "where" to insert the words "it is proved to." "That those words be there inserted."			
2nd July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 7 :— Claimed, "That the Question 'That all the words of the Clause down to and including the words 'Land Court' in page 7, line 31, stand part of the Clause' be now put."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 36; Noes, 14.
2nd July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 7 :— Amendment proposed, in page 7, lines 31 and 32, to leave out the words "or orders for the constitution of" in order to insert the words "for the leasing of such land to the Commissioners who shall constitute" instead thereof. "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 29; Noes, 19.
2nd July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 7 :— Claimed, "That the Question 'That all the words of the Clause down to and including the word 'tenancy' in page 8, line 18, stand part of the Clause,' be now put."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 32; Noes, 86.
4th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 7 :— Amendment proposed, in page 8, line 18, after the word "tenancy" to insert the words "or to any landlord in respect of an obligation to take over sheep stock at a valuation." Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, after the word "valuation" to add the words "way-going crops or other subjects or improvements." "That those words be there added."	- - - -	Chairman's assent withheld, as it appeared to him that the Committee was prepared to come to a decision without that Motion.	

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before Committee when Moved.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, numbers For and Against.
4th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill - - - - - - - - Clause 7:— Claimed " That the Question, 'That subsections 10 as amended, 11, 12, 13, and 14 stand part of the Clause,' be now put."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 32; Noes, 16.
4th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 7:— Amendment proposed, in page 9, line 3, to leave out from the words "(*a*) In" to the word "or" in line 7 (both inclusive). "That the words "(*a*) In respect of any land being or forming part of a farm not exceeding" stand part of the Clause.	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 33; Noes, 16.
4th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 7:— Claimed, " That the Question, 'That all the words of subsection 15 down to and including the word 'or' in line 7 stand part of the Clause, be now out.	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 30; Noes, 16.
4th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 7:— Amendment proposed, in page 9, line 8, to leave out subsection (6). "That the words 'in respect of any land' stand part of the Clause."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 27; Noes, 17.

4th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Claimed, "That the Question, 'That Clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill' be now put."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 32; Noes, 15.
4th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill- - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 8:— Amendment proposed, in page 9, line 36, after the word "Commissioners," to insert the words "after deduction of the amount of any outstanding liabilities owing by the landholder or his statutory successors to the landlord." "That those words be there inserted."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 36; Noes, 15.
9th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill- - - - - - - - - - - - - Amendment proposed, in page 9, lines 37 and 38, to leave out the words "Assessed by the Land Court" in order to insert the words "determined by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1900." "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 21; Noes, 9.
9th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill- - - - - - - - - - - - - Claimed, "That the Question 'That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill be now put."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 24; Noes, 11.
9th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 8:— Amendment proposed, at the end of subsection (4) after the word "for" to add the words "and a similar record as the rest of any farm or property out of which such holding has been formed." "That those words be there added."	Chairman's assent withheld.		

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before Committee when Moved.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
9th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 9 :— Amendment proposed, in page 10, line 24, after the word "holdings" to insert the words "according to the rules of good husbandry." "That those words be there inserted."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 36; Noes, 15.
9th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 9 :— Claimed, "That all the words of the Clause down to and including the word 'holding,' in page 10, line 39, stand part of the Clause" be now put.	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 36; Noes, 15.
9th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 9 :— Amendment proposed, in page 10, line 39, after the word "that" to insert the words "nothing in the said subsection shall be construed as debarring a landholder from subletting his dwelling-house to holiday visitors, and providing furthur that." "That those words be there inserted."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 37; Noes, 8.
9th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill - - - - - - - - Clause 9 :— Amendment proposed, in page 11, line 4, after the word "dwelling-house," to add the words— "Nothing in subsection seven of section one of the Act of 1886 shall be construed as precluding a landholder from recovering any	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes 36; Noes, 16.

		compensation for damage by game which, under section two of the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1906, is recoverable by a tenant, and the last-mentioned section shall apply accordingly with the substitution of the Land Court for arbitration." Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, in line 4, to leave out all the words after the word "apply." "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."			
16th July	Mr. Halley Stewart	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - "That the Committee do now adjourn."	Chairman's assent withheld.		
16th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - "That the Committee do now adjourn."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes 32; Noes, 13.
16th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Clause 14:— Amendment proposed in page 12, line 19, after the word "holder," to the word:— "Provided that where, under the provisions of the Landholders Acts, the holding was, otherwise than by agreement, constituted as a new holding or enlarged, it shall be the duty of the Land Court upon an application by the landlord, after hearing the Agricultural Commissioners, to assess any damage or injury done by the constitution or enlargement of the holding, as the case may be, to the landlord through depreciation in the letting value of the land comprised in the holding, or through the imposition of liabilities in respect of permanent improvements thereon, and to require the Agricultural Commissioners to pay the landlord compensation in respect of such damage or injury to such amount as the Land Court determine." Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, in line 1, to leave out all the words after the word "that" in order to insert the words "Compensation shall be payable to any landlord or occupier for any loss such landlord or occupier may prove to be due to the action of the Land Court, or of the Agricultural Commissioners, to such	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes 30; Noes, 16.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before Committee when Moved.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, of a Division, Numbers For and Against.
		amount as may be determined by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1906," instead thereof. "That the words 'where under the provisions of the Landowners Acts the holding was' stand part of the proposed Amendment."			
16th July	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill Claimed, "That Clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill."	Chairman's assent given.	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 30; Noes, 13.
16th July	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill Clause 15:— Amendment proposed in page 12, line 22, to leave out all the words after the word "that" to the end of the Clause in order to insert the words "where the Land Court after application by landowner has fixed the fair rent the landowner shall not be entitled to renounce his tenancy for a period of seven years thereafter, unless the landlord agrees to accept such renunciation at any time prior to the expiry of such period." "That the words 'Such notice shall not without the consent of the Land Court be effective unless within two months from the date of notice the landlord transmits a copy thereof to the Agricultural Commission,' stand part of the Clause."	Chairman's assent given	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 30; Noes, 13.
16th July	Mr. Sinclair	Same Bill Claimed, "That the Question, 'That Clause 15, as amended, stand part of the Bill' be now put."	Chairman's assent given	- - - -	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 30; Noes, 13.

16th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Small Landowners (Scotland) Bill - - - - - - - - Clause 16 :— Amendment proposed, in page 12, line 32, after the word "fencing" to insert the words " or sale or letting on long lease." " Those words be there inserted."	Chairman's assent given	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 31 ; Noes, 15.
16th July	Mr. Sinclair -	Same Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - Claimed, " That the Question ' That Clause 16 stand part of the Bill,' be now put."	The Chairman's assent given	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 30 ; Noes, 15.
		STANDING COMMITTEE B.			
14th Aug.	Mr. Secretary Gladstone	Cabs and Stage Carriages (London) Bill - - - - - - " That Clause 2 as amended, stand part of the Bill."	The Chairman's assent given	- - - -	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 17 ; Noes, 2.

EVERARD H. DOYLE,
Principal Clerk of Committees.

SELECT COMMITTEES.

RETURN "of the number of SELECT COMMITTEES appointed in Session 1907, including the STANDING COMMITTEES and the COURT OF REFEREES; the subjects of inquiry; the names of the Members appointed to serve on each, and of the Chairman of each; the number of days each Committee met, and the number of days each Member attended; the total expense of the attendance of witnesses at each Select Committee, and the name of the Member who moved for such Select Committee; also, the total number of MEMBERS who served on SELECT COMMITTEES (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.226, of Session 1906)."

ALPHABETICAL LIST of the NAMES of MEMBERS appointed to serve on SELECT COMMITTEES in the Session of 1907.

SESSION 1907.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	Committee on which each Member was appointed.
A.	
Abraham, Mr. (*Cork*)	17.
Abraham, Mr. William (*Rhondda*).	17.
Acland, Mr.	17.
Adkins, Mr.	12. 17.
Advocate, The Lord. (*See* Shaw, Mr. T.)	
Allen, Mr. Charles	5. 13.
Arkwright, Mr.	3.
Ashton, Mr.	9. 13.
Asquith, Mr.	8. 17.
Attorney-General, Mr. (*See* Walton, Sir J. L.)	
Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr. (*See* Cherry, Mr.)	
B.	
Balfour, Mr.	6.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George	17. 18.
Banner, Mr.	17.
Barker, Mr.	7.
Barnard, Mr.	4. 17.
Barnes, Mr.	17.
Barran, Mr.	5. 17.
Barry, Mr.	10.
Beach, Mr. Hicks	5.
Beale, Mr.	17.
Beckett, Mr.	17.
Billson, Sir Alfred	13. 17.
Blake, Mr.	6. 15.
Boland, Mr.	3. 17.
Bowerman, Mr.	5.
Bowles, Mr.	9. 17.
Brace, Mr.	17.
Bridgeman, Mr.	3. 17.
Brigg, Mr.	9.
Bright, Mr.	17.
Brunner, Mr.	3. 17.
Brunner, Sir J. T.	16.
Burt, Mr.	10.
Butcher, Mr.	18.
Buxton, Mr. Sydney Charles	12.
C.	
Caldwell, Mr. James	14.
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.	6.
Carlile, Mr.	17.
Carson, Sir Edw.	2.
Castlereagh, Viscount	17.
Cave, Mr.	2. 17.
Cavendish, Mr. Victor	9. 17.
Cawley, Sir Frederick	16. 18.
Cecil, Mr. Evelyn	18.
Cecil, Lord Robert	8. 14. 17.
Chance, Mr.	17.
Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. (*See* Asquith, Mr.)	
Channing, Sir Francis	18.
Cheetham, Mr.	18.
Cherry, Mr.	2. 17.
Clancy, Mr.	13.
Cleland, Mr.	11. 17.
Clynes, Mr.	17.
Cobbold, Mr.	17.
Cochrane, Mr.	17.
Collings, Mr. Jesse	17.
Collins, Mr. Stephen	17.
Collins, Sir W.	17.
Cooper, Mr.	17.
Corbett, Mr. Cameron	9. 17.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	Committee on which each Member was appointed.
Corbett, Mr. C. H.	17.
Cornwall, Sir Edwin	18.
Cory, Mr.	17.
Courthope, Mr.	17. 18.
Cox, Mr. Harold	5. 11. 17.
Craig, Mr. Charles	10. 17.
Craig, Mr. Herbert	17.
Craik, Sir Henry	17.
Cremer, Sir Randall	4. 18.
Crombie, Mr.	11. 14. 15. 16. 18.
Crooks, Mr.	17.
Crossfield, Mr.	17.
Cross, Mr.	18.
Cullinan, Mr.	18.
D.	
Dalziel, Mr.	4. 15.
Davies, Mr. David	18.
Davies, Mr. Ellis	17. 18.
Davies, Mr. Vaughan	17. 18.
Davies, Mr. Timothy	18.
Devlin, Mr. Joseph	3.
Dewar, Mr. Arthur	3. 17.
Dickinson, Mr.	17.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John	12. 13.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F.	16. 18.
Dolan, Mr.	17.
Doughty, Sir George	13.
Douglas, Mr. Akers-	17.
Duckworth, Mr.	18.
Duncan, Mr. C.	18.
E.	
Edwards, Mr. C.	17.
Edwards, Mr. Enoch	12. 17.
Edwards, Sir Frank	7.
Ellis, Mr.	6. 8. 16.
Emmott, Mr.	14.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas	1. 9. 16.
Evans, Mr.	17.
Everett, Mr.	18.
F.	
Faber, Mr. George	17.
Fell, Mr.	3.
Fenwick, Mr.	4. 8. 15.
Ferens, Mr.	18.
Ferguson, Mr. Munro-	17. 18.
Field, Mr.	17.
Fiennes, Mr.	17.
Fletcher, Mr.	17.
Flynn, Mr.	17.
Foster, Mr. H. W.	8.
Fowler, Sir Henry	17.
Furness, Sir Christopher	18.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	Committee on which each Member was appointed.
G.	
Gill, Mr.	9.
Gladstone, Mr.	18.
Glover, Mr.	17.
Goddard, Mr.	9.
Gordon, Mr.	17.
Griffith, Mr.	10.
Gurdon, Sir Brampton	15. 17.
Gwynn, Mr.	12. 17.
H.	
Haddock, Mr.	18.
Hambro, Mr.	17.
Hardy, Mr. Laurence	1.
Harmsworth, Mr. Leicester	10.
Harrison-Broadley, Col.	18.
Harvey, Mr. W. E.	17.
Harwood, Mr.	17.
Haslam, Mr. J.	17.
Hay, Mr. Claude	7.
Hayden, Mr.	18.
Hazleton, Mr.	9. 17.
Healy, Mr.	17.
Heaton, Mr. Henniker	10.
Helmsley, Viscount	4. 17.
Henderson, Mr. Arthur	3. 15. 17.
Herbert, Colonel Sir Ivor	17.
Higham, Mr.	17.
Hill, Sir Clement	7.
Hills, Mr.	14.
Hobart, Sir Robert	4. 9.
Hobhouse, Mr.	7.
Hodge, Mr.	17.
Holden, Mr.	9.
Holland, Sir William	1. 12. 13. 17.
Hooper, Mr.	18.
Hope, Mr. J. D.	4. 17.
Hope, Mr. W. B.	17.
Hudson, Mr. Walter	17.
Hyde, Mr.	17.
I.	
Idris, Mr.	18.
J.	
Jacoby, Sir James	4.
Jardine, Sir J.	17.
Johnson, Mr. John	17.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor	1. 2. 8. 14. 17.
Jones, Mr. Leif	9. 18.
Jones, Mr. William	11.
Joyce, Mr.	18.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	Committee on which each Member was appointed.
K.	
Kearley, Mr.	18.
Kekewich, Sir George	9.
Kelley, Mr.	17.
Kennaway, Sir John	2. 13. 17.
Kennedy, Mr.	17.
Kenyon-Slaney, Col.	10.
Kettle, Mr.	18.
L.	
Lamb, Mr. Ernest	3.
Lambert, Mr.	12.
Lambton, Mr.	13. 17.
Lane-Fox, Mr.	18.
Law, Mr. Bonar	18.
Law, Mr. Hugh	3.
Lea, Mr.	4.
Lee, Mr.	12. 17.
Leese, Sir Joseph	2. 16. 17.
Lehmann, Mr.	5. 17.
Lloyd-George, Mr.	18.
Lockwood, Colonel	4.
Long, Colonel	13. 16. 18.
Long, Mr.	17. 18.
Lonsdale, Mr.	4. 9.
Lough, Mr.	18.
Lowe, Sir Francis	17.
Lupton, Mr.	18.
M.	
Macdonald, Mr. J. R.	17.
MacIver, Mr.	17.
Macpherson, Mr.	12.
MacVeagh, Mr. J.	11. 18.
McArthur, Mr.	10.
McCalmont, Colonel	17.
McCrae, Mr.	9. 17.
McIver, Sir Lewis	13.
McKillop, Mr.	4. 18.
Maddison, Mr.	11. 17.
Manfield, Mr.	18.
Mansfield, Mr.	18.
Mason, Mr. James	17.
Massie, Mr.	3. 17.
Masterman, Mr.	3. 18.
Meehan, Mr.	7. 18.
Menzies, Mr.	17.
Middlemore, Mr.	17.
Mildmay, Mr.	16.
Mond, Mr.	17.
Money, Mr. Chiozza	3.
Mooney, Mr.	17.
Morgan, Mr. J. Lloyd	17.
Morpeth, Viscount	17.
Murray, Mr.	18.
Myer, Mr.	17.
N.	
Nannetti, Mr.	11.
Napier, Mr.	17.
Nicholls, Mr.	18.
Nicholson, Mr. Charles	18.
Nicholson, Mr. W. G.	17.
Nolan, Mr.	17.
Nussey, Mr.	17.
O.	
O'Connor, Mr. T. P.	8. 10.
P.	
Parker, Sir Gilbert	12.
Parker, Mr.	18.
Parkes, Mr.	3. 18.
Partington, Mr.	18.
Paulton, Mr.	14.
Pease, Mr.	17.
Philipps, Mr. J. W.	10.
Pickersgill, Mr.	17.
Pollard, Dr.	18.
Powell, Sir Francis	17.
Power, Mr.	4.
Priestley, Mr. W. E. B.	17.
R.	
Rainy, Mr.	17.
Raphael, Mr.	17.
Rea, Mr. Walter	18.
Rea, Mr. Russell	13.
Reddy, Mr.	17.
Redmond, Mr. William	3. 4. 5. 16. 17.
Rees, Mr.	17. 18.
Rendall, Mr.	17.
Renton, Major	17. 18.
Richards, Mr. Thomas	18.
Richardson, Mr.	3.
Rickett, Mr. Compton	11. 13. 17.
Ridsdale, Mr.	17.
Roberts, Mr. Charles	17.
Roberts, Mr. G. H.	11. 15.
Roberts, Mr. Samuel	17.
Robertson, Sir George	18.
Robertson, Mr. J. M.	18.
Robinson, Mr.	3. 18.
Robson, Sir W.	2. 17.
Rogers, Mr.	18.
Ropner, Sir Robert	18.
Rose, Mr.	17.
Runciman, Mr.	9. 17.
Russell, Mr. T. W.	18.
S.	
Samuel, Mr. Herbert	17. 18.
Samuel, Mr. Stuart	3.
Sassoon, Sir Edward	12.
Schwann, Sir C. E.	13.
Seely, Major	8.
Shackleton, Mr.	8. 16. 18
Shaw, Mr. T.	2. 17.
Sheffield, Sir Berkeley	18.
Sherwell, Mr.	3.
Sinclair, Mr.	17.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	Committee on which each Member was appointed.
Smeaton, Mr. - - - -	17. 18.
Smith, Mr. Abel - - -	17.
Smith, Mr. F. E. - - -	18.
Smith, Mr. W. F. D. - -	15.
Soames, Mr. - - - -	13. 18.
Soares, Mr. - - - -	17.
Solicitor - General, Mr. (*See* Robson, Sir W. S.).	
Solicitor General for Scotland, Mr. (*See* Ure, Mr. Alex.)	
Stanley, Mr. Arthur - -	17.
Stewart, Mr. Halley - -	17.
Stone, Sir Benjamin - -	17.
Strachey, Sir Edward - -	4. 18.
Stuart, Mr. James - - -	16.
Sutherland, Mr. - - -	7.
T.	
Talbot, Lord Edmond - -	17.
Talbot, Mr. J. G. - - -	17. 18.
Taylor, Mr. Austin - -	18.
Taylor, Mr. J. W. - - -	17.
Taylor, Mr. Theodore - -	5. 18.
Thomas, Mr. - - - -	13. 16. 18.
Thorne, Mr. - - - -	4.
Thornton, Mr. - - -	17.
Torrance, Sir Andrew - -	17.
Toulmin, Mr. - - - -	5. 11. 13.
Trevelyan, Mr. - - -	3. 18.
U.	
Ure, Mr. Alexander - -	17. 18.
V.	
Verney, Mr. - - - -	18.
Vincent, Sir Howard - -	17.
W.	
Wadsworth, Mr. - - -	17.
Waldron, Mr. - - - -	17.
Walker, Mr. - - - -	17.
Walrond, Mr. - - - -	4. 5. 18.
Walsh, Mr. - - - -	18.
Walton, Sir J. L. - - -	2. 6. 18.
Walton, Mr. Joseph - -	17.
Ward, Mr. John - - -	7.
Wardle, Mr. - - - -	7.
Wason, Mr. Eugene - -	1. 16. 18.
Wason, Mr. Cathcart - -	17. 18.
Wedgwood, Mr. - - -	17.
White, Mr. George - - -	18.
Whitehead, Mr. - - -	17.
Whittaker, Sir Thomas - -	3.
Wilkie, Mr. - - - -	17.
Williams, Mr. J. - - -	17.
Williams, Mr. Osmond - -	4. 13. 18.
Williams, Colonel - - -	9.
Williamson, Mr. - - -	18.
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord -	10. 18.
Wills, Mr. - - - -	10.
Wilson, Mr. H. J. - - -	10.
Wilson, Mr. John - - -	1. 6. 17.
Wilson, Mr. J. W. - - -	1. 18.
Wilson, Mr. Tyson - - -	17.
Wolff, Mr. - - - -	18.
Wortley, Mr. Stuart - -	1. 17.
Y.	
Young, Mr. - - - -	18.
Yoxall, Mr. - - - -	17.

RETURN of the Number of SELECT COMMITTEES appointed in Session 1907, including the STANDING COMMITTEES and the COURT OF REFEREES; the Subjects of Inquiry; the Names of the Members appointed to Serve on each, and of the Chairman of each; the Number of Days each Committee Met, and the Number of Days each Member Attended: the Total Expense of the Attendance of Witnesses at each Select Committee, and the Name of the Member who Moved for such Select Committee; also, the Total Number of MEMBERS who Served on SELECT COMMITTEES (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.199 of Session 1905).

Note.—*For Return relating to Select Committees nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection, for the consideration of Bills referred to them*, see *under Return "Private Bills."*

SESSION 1907.

Subjects of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee, and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS.
1.				£ s. d.	
Chairmen's Panel -	- - - - - - - -	–	6		
Nominated 23rd April by the Committee of Selection.	Wortley, Mr. Stuart- (Chairman).	6			
	Esmonde, Sir Thomas -	2			
	Hardy, Mr. Laurence - -	2			
	Holland, Sir William - -	1			
	Jones, Sir David Brynmor -	6			
	Wason, Mr. Eugene - -	6			
	Wilson, Mr. J. W. - -	5			
	Wilson, Mr. John - -	–			
2.					
Divorce Bills - -	- - - - - - - -	–	5	Nil.	Galway's Divorce Bill [Lords]. FitzGerald's Divorce Bill [Lords]. Byrne's Divorce Bill [Lords.] Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation) Bill [Lords]. Killery's Divorce Bill [Lords]. *Acted twice as Chairman.
Nominated 12th March.	Attorney-General, Mr. (Chairman).	3			
	*Advocate, The Lord - -	2			
Moved for by Mr. Attorney-General.	Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr.	5			
	Carson, Sir Edward - -	–			
	Cave, Mr. G. - - -	1			
	Jones, Sir David Brynmor -	3			
	Kennaway, Sir John - -	3			
	Leese, Sir Joseph - -	2			
	Solicitor-General Mr. - -	2			
3.					
Home Work - -	- - - - - - - -	–	15	15 12 3	
Nominated 4th June.	Whittaker, Sir Thomas (Chairman).	14			
	Arkwright, Mr. - - -	6			
	Boland, Mr. - - -	3			
Moved for by Mr. George Whiteley.	Bridgeman, Mr. - - -	7			
	Brunner, Mr. - - -	10			
	Bull, Sir William - -	3			
	Devlin, Mr. Joseph - -	–			
	Dewar, Mr. Arthur - -	13			

Subjects of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS.
				£ s. d.	
Moved for by Mr. George Whiteley—*cont.*	Fell, Mr.	12			
	Henderson, Mr. Arthur	8			
	Lamb, Mr. Ernest	1			
	Law, Mr. Hugh	12			Added 12 June.
	Massie, Mr.	11			
	Masterman, Mr.	7			
	Money, Mr. Chiozza	13			
	Parkes, Mr.	14			
	Richardson, Mr.	14			
	Redmond, Mr. William	–			Discharged 12 June.
	Robinson, Mr.	14			
	Samuel, Mr. Stuart	11			
	Sherwell, Mr.	6			
	Trevelyan, Mr.	13			Acted once as Chairman.
4.					
Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms (House of Commons).	Jacoby, Sir James A. (Chairman).	18	18		
	Barnard, Mr.	2			
	Cremer, Sir Randall	15			
Nominated, 20th February.	Dalziel, Mr.	2			
	Fenwick, Mr.	8			
	Helmsley, Viscount	8			
Moved for by Mr. George Whiteley.	Hobart, Sir Robert	1			Discharged 4 March.
	Hope, Mr. John Deans	12			
	Lea, Mr.	8			
	Lockwood, Colonel	9			
	Lonsdale, Mr.	6			
	M'Killop, Mr.	11			
	Power, Mr.	15			
	Redmond, Mr. William	15			
	Strachey, Sir Edward	10			
	Thorne, Mr.	6			
	Walrond, Mr.	13			
	Williams, Mr. Osmond	1			Added 4 March.
5.					
Parliamentary Debates		–	15	Nil.	
Nominated, 26th March.	Allen, Mr. Charles P. (Chairman).	15			
	Barran, Mr.	10			
	Beach, Mr. Hicks	10			
Moved for by Mr. George Whiteley.	Bowerman, Mr.	12			
	Cox, Mr. Harold	–			Discharged 7 May.
	Lehmann, Mr.	11			
	Redmond, Mr. William	14			
	Taylor, Mr. Theodore	5			Added 7 May.
	Toulmin, Mr.	14			
	Walrond, Mr.	4			
6.					
Privileges		–	–	Nil.	The Committee did not meet.
	Attorney-General, Mr.				
Appointed and Nominated 12th March.	Aubrey-Fletcher, Sir Henry				
	Balfour, Mr.				
	Blake, Mr.				
Moved for by Mr. George Whiteley.	Campbell-Bannerman, Sir Henry.				
	Ellis, Mr.				
	Wilson, Mr. John (*Durham*)				

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS.
				£ s. d.	
7.					
Post Office Servants		–	9	Nil.	
	Hobhouse, Mr. (Chairman)	9			
Moved for by Mr. Sydney Buxton.	Barker, Mr.	6			
	Edwards, Sir Frank	6			
	Hay, Mr. Claude	7			
Nominated 28th February.	Hill, Sir Clement	9			
	Meehan, Mr.	4			
	Sutherland, Mr.	9			
	Ward, Mr. John	5			
	Wardle, Mr.	8			
8.					
Procedure (Anticipatory Motions).		–	3	Nil.	
	Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. (Chairman).	3			
Nominated, 3rd July.	Cecil, Lord Robert	3			
	Ellis, Mr.	3			
Moved for by Mr. George Whiteley.	Fenwick, Mr.	3			
	Forster, Mr. H. W.	3			
	Jones, Sir D. Brynmor	2			
	O'Connor, Mr. T. P.	1			
	Seely, Major	3			
	Shackleton, Mr.	2			
9.					
Public Accounts		–	31	Nil.	
Nominated 19th February.	Cavendish, Mr. Victor (Chairman).	31			
	Ashton, Mr.	24			
	Bowles, Mr.	22			Added 11 April.
Moved for by Mr. George Whiteley.	Brigg, Mr.	24			
	Corbett, Mr. Cameron	3			
	Esmond, Sir Thomas	–			
	Gill, Mr.	17			
	Goddard, Mr.	23			
	Hazleton, Mr.	1			
	Hobart, Sir Robert	29			Added 5 March
	Holden, Mr.	–			Discharged 5 March.
	Jones, Mr. Leif	29			
	Kekewich, Sir George	26			
	Lonsdale, Mr.	1			Discharged 11 Apr.
	M'Crae, Mr.	24			
	Runciman, Mr.	16			
	Williams, Colonel	25			
10.					
Public Petitions		–	4	Nil.	
Nominated 21st February.	Wilson, Mr. Henry J. (Chairman).	3			
	Barry, Mr. E.	–			
	Burt, Mr.	3			Acted once as Chairman.
Moved for by Mr. George Whiteley.	Craig, Mr. Charles	–			
	Griffith, Mr. Ellis	–			
	Harmsworth, Mr. Leicester	–			
	Heaton, Mr. Henniker	1			
	Kenyon-Slaney, Colonel	1			
	M'Arthur, Mr.	–			
	O'Connor, Mr. T. P.	1			
	Philipps, Mr. J. W.	2			
	Shaw, Mr. Charles	2			
	Willoughby de Eresby, Lord	–			
	Wills, Mr.	2			

Subjects of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS.
11.				£ s. d.	
Publications - -	- - - - - - -	–	9	Nil.	
Nominated 8th May.	Crombie, Mr. (Chairman) -	9			
	Cleland, Mr. - - -	9			
	Cox, Mr. Harold - - -	6			
Moved for by Mr. George Whiteley.	Jones, Mr. William - -	1			
	MacVeagh, Mr. Jeremiah -	2			
	Maddison, Mr. - - -	8			
	Rickett, Mr. Compton- -	1			
	Roberts, Mr. George - -	7			
	Toulmin, Mr. - - -	7			
12					
Radiotelegraphic Convention.	- - - - - - -	–	17	Nil.	
	Dickson-Poynder, Sir John (Chairman).	17			
	Adkins, Mr. - - -	14			
Moved for by Mr. George Whiteley.	Buxton, Mr. Sydney - -	17			
	Edwards, Mr. Enoch - -	1			
	Gwynn, Mr. - - -	14			
Nominated 8th March.	Holland, Sir William - -	13			
	Lambert, Mr. - - -	13			
	Lee, Mr. Arthur - - -	16			
	Macpherson, Mr. - -	8			
	Parker, Sir Gilbert - -	12			
	Sassoon, Sir Edward - -	11			
13.					
General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills.	- - - - - - -	–	1		
	Kennaway, Sir John (Chairman).	1			
	Ashton, Mr. - - -	1			
Nominated 21st February.	Allen, Mr. Charles - -	1			
	Billson, Sir Alfred - -	–			Added 23 May.
	Clancy, Mr. - - - -	1			
	Dickson-Poynder, Sir John -	1			
	Doughty, Sir George - -	–			
	Holland, Sir William - -	–			
	Lambton, Mr. - - -	–			
	Long, Colonel - - -	1			
	M'Iver, Sir Lewis - -	–			
	Rea, Mr. Russell - -	–			Added 11 April.
	Rickett, Mr. Compton -	1			
	Soames, Mr. - - -	–			
	Schwann, Sir Charles E. -	–			
	Thomas, Mr. D. A. - -	1			
	Toulmin, Mr. - - -	–			Added 14 May.
	Williams, Mr. Osmond -	1			
14.					
Referees, Court of -	- - - - - - -	–	6	Nil.	
	Emmott, Mr. (Chairman -	1			Acted five times as Chairman.
	Caldwell, Mr. James - -	6			
	Beale, Mr. J. - - -	6			
	Cecil, Lord Robert - -	3			
	Crombie, Mr. - - -	4			
	Hills, Mr. - - - -	1			
	Jones, Sir David B. - -	3			
	Paulton, Mr. - - -	1			

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS.
				£ s. d.	
15.					
Committee of Selection	- - - - - - -	–	22	Nil.	
(A Sessional Committee.)	Gurdon, Sir Brampton (Chairman).	22			
	Aubrey-Fletcher, Sir Henry	16			
	Blake, Mr. - - - -	12			
	Crombie, Mr. - - -	14			
	Dalziel, Mr. - - -	6			
	Fenwick, Mr. - - -	17			
	Henderson, Mr. Arthur -	16			
	Lockwood, Colonel - -	16			
	Roberts, Mr. Herbert - -	14			
	Smith. Mr. W. F. D. - -	13			
16.					
Standing Orders - -	- - - - - - -	–	10	Nil.	
(A Sessional Committee.)	Ellis, Mr. (Chairman) - -	9			
	Brunner, Sir John - -	7			
	Crombie, Mr. - - -	1			Discharged 6 March.
	Cawley, Sir Frederick -	3			
	Dixon-Hartland, Sir Frederick.	8			Acted once as Chairman.
	Esmonde, Sir Thomas - -	3			
	Leese, Sir Joseph - -	5			
	Long, Colonel - - -	6			
	Mildmay, Mr. - - -	4			
	Redmond, Mr. William -	7			
	Shackleton, Mr. - - -	4			
	Stuart, Mr. James - -	–			
	Thomas, Mr. D. A. - -	3			
	Wason, Mr. Eugene - -	7			Added 6 March.

Subjects of Inquiry and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	REMARKS.
17.				
Standing Committee on Law, &c.	- - - - - -	–	8	
Nominated 21st February.	Wortley, Mr. Stuart- } Chairmen.	4		
	Jones, Sir David Brynmor. } Chairmen.	4		
Bills referred:	Advocate, The Lord - -	–		Discharged in respect of Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland) Bill, 10 April.
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill (4 days).				
Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland) Bill (3 days).	Abraham, Mr. William (*Cork*) - - - -	–		
	Adkins, Mr. - - -	1		
	Banner, Mr. Harmood- -	1		
	Barnard, Mr. - - -	4		
Lights on Vehicles Bill (1 day).	Barran, Mr. - - -	2		
	Beckett, Mr. - - -	2		
	Billson, Sir Alfred - -	2		
	Boland, Mr. - - -	–		
	Bowles, Mr. - - -	3		
	Brace, Mr. - - - -	5		
	Bright, Mr. - - - -	4		
	Castlereagh, Viscount - -	2		Appointed 19 March.
	Cave, Mr. - - - -	4		
	Chance, Mr. - - -	4		
	Clynes, Mr. - - -	3		
	Cobbold, Mr. - - -	7		
	Cochrane, Mr. - - -	1		
	Cooper, Mr. - - - -	3		
	Craig, Mr. Charles - -	–		
	Craig, Mr. Herbert - -	4		
	Davies, Mr. Ellis - -	4		
	Dickinson, Mr. - - -	4		
	Edwards, Mr. Clement -	–		
	Evans, Mr. - - - -	–		
	Faber, Mr. George (*York*) -	5		
	Fletcher, Mr. - - -	3		
	Flynn, Mr. - - - -	1		
	Fowler, Sir Henry - -	1		
	Gwynn, Mr. - - -	1		
	Harvey, Mr. W. E. - -	3		Appointed 5 March.
	Harwood, Mr. - - -	6		
	Haslam, Mr. James - -	–		
	Healy, Mr. - - - -	–		
	Herbert, Colonel Sir Ivor -	4		
	Higham, Mr. - - -	8		
	Hodge, Mr. - - - -	5		
	Hope, Mr. Bateman - -	7		
	Jardine, Sir John - -	7		
	Kennedy, Mr. Vincent -	2		
	Lambton, Mr. - - -	4		
	Lee, Mr. Arthur - - -	–		Discharged in respect of Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 15 March. Discharged 22 March.
	Leese, Sir Joseph - -	7		
	Lehmann, Mr. - - -	5		
	Lowe, Sir Francis - -	–		
	Maddison, Mr. - - -	–		Discharged 5 March.
	Massie, Mr. - - -	7		

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	REMARKS.
Standing Committee on Law, &c.—*continued.*	Morgan, Mr. Lloyd	1		
	Morpeth, Viscount	1		Appointed in respect of Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 15 March.
	Nannetti, Mr.	–		
	Napier, Mr.	7		
	Nussey, Mr.	2		
	Pease, Mr. Pike	–		Discharged 19 March.
	Pickersgill, Mr.	–		
	Powell, Sir Francis	5		
	Rainy, Mr.	2		
	Rees, Mr.	4		
	Rickett, Mr. Compton	3		
	Roberts, Mr. Charles	7		
	Roberts, Mr. Samuel	–		
	Soares, Mr.	–		
	Solicitor-General, Mr.	2		
	Solicitor-General for Scotland, Mr.	3		Appointed in respect of Education, (Provision of Meals) (Scotland) Bill, 10 April.
	Stone, Sir Benjamin	3		
	Taylor, Mr. John	4		
	Thornton, Mr.	3		
	Vincent, Sir Howard	2		
	Waldron, Mr.	–		
	Walker, Mr.	3		
	Walton, Mr. Joseph	4		
	Whitehead, Mr.	2		
	Added in respect of the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill - (15)			
	Acland, Mr.	2		
	Carlile, Mr.	4		
	Cecil, Lord Robert	4		
	Collings, Mr. Jesse	4		
	Collins, Mr. Stephen	4		
	Corbett, Mr. Cameron	1		
	Gurdon, Sir William Brampton.	4		
	Hambro, Mr.	–		
	Henderson, Mr. Arthur	4		
	Kennaway, Sir John	2		
	MacIver, Mr.	1		
	Smeaton, Mr.	4		
	Talbot, Lord Edmund	3		
	Talbot, Mr.	3		
	Torrance, Sir Andrew	4		
	Added in respect of the Education (Provision of Meals) (Scolland) Bill (15)			
	Barnes, Mr.	3		
	Bridgeman, Mr.	2		
	Collins, Sir William	1		
	Cox, Mr. Harold	–		
	Craik, Sir Henry	2		
	Ferguson, Mr. Munro	2		
	Henderson, Mr. Arthur	2		

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	REMARKS.
Standing Committee on Law, &c.—*continued.*	M'Crae, Mr.	3		
	Macdonald, Mr. Ramsay	3		
	Mason, Mr. James	3		
	Priestley, Mr. William	–		
	Sinclair, Mr.	3		
	Stewart, Mr. Halley	1		
	Wilkie, Mr.	3		
	Wilson, Mr. Tyson	–		
	Added in respect of the Lights on Vehicles Bill (15).			
	Corbett, Mr. C. H.	1		
	Courthope, Mr.	1		
	Davies, Mr. Vaughan	1		
	Dewar, Mr. Arthur	1		
	Fiennes, Mr.	1		
	Kelley, Mr. G. D.	1		
	Long, Mr.	–		
	Nicholson, Mr. W.	1		
	Rendall, Mr.	1		
	Renton, Mr.	1		
	Rose, Mr.	1		
	Samuel, Mr. H.	1		
	Smith, Mr. Abel	–		
	Stanley, Mr. Arthur	1		
	Wason, Mr. Cathcart	1		
18.				
Standing Committee on Trade, &c.	- - - - - -	–	6	
	Wason, Mr. Eugene } Chairmen.	4		
Nominated 21st February.	Wilson, Mr. J. W. }	2		
Bills referred:	Attorney General, Mr.	1		
	Banbury, Sir Frederick	1		Added 22 March (in respect of Railways (Contracts) Bill)
Education Acts Amendment Bill (1 day).	Cawley, Sir Frederick	–		
	Cecil, Mr. Evelyn	4		
	Channing, Sir Francis	3		
Railways (Contracts) Bill (1 day).	Cheetham, Mr.	3		
	Courthope, Mr.	–		
	Cremer, Sir Randall	–		
Merchandise Marks Bill (2 days).	Crombie, Mr.	–		Discharged 12 March.
	Cross, Mr. Alexander	1		
	Cullinan, Mr.	–		
Irish Tobacco Bill (1 day).	Davies, Mr. David	1		
	Davies, Mr. Vaughan	1		
Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill (1 day).	Davies, Mr. Timothy	4		
	Dixon-Hartland, Sir Frederick	1		
	Duckworth, Mr.	6		
	Duncan, Mr. Charles	–		
	Everett, Mr.	5		Discharged 18 April.
	Ferens, Mr.	1		
	Ferguson, Mr. Munro	4		
	Furness, Sir Christopher	2		
	Gladstone, Mr.	1		Added 17 March.
	Haddock, Mr.	2		
	Harrison-Broadley, Colonel	1		

Subjects of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	REMARKS.
Standing Committee on Trade, &c.—*continued.*	Hayden, Mr.	2		
	Hooper, Mr.	2		
	Idris, Mr.	3		
	Joyce, Mr.	3		
	Kearley, Mr.	1		
	Kettle, Mr.	–		
	Lane-Fox, Mr.	–		
	Law, Mr. Bonar	–		
	Lloyd-George, Mr.	2		Discharged 17 April.
	Long, Colonel	–		
	Long, Mr. Walter	–		
	Lupton, Mr.	1		Added 18 April.
	Manfield, Mr.	–		Discharged 12 March.
	Mansfield, Mr.	1		
	MacVeagh, Mr. Jeremiah	–		
	M‘Killop, Mr.	1		
	Meehan, Mr.	2		
	Murray, Mr.	3		Added 12 March.
	Nicholson, Mr. Charles	–		Discharged 12 March.
	Nicholls, Mr.	2		
	Parkes, Mr.	2		
	Partington, Mr.	2		
	Pollard, Dr.	4		Added 12 March.
	Renton, Major	1		
	Richards, Mr. Thomas	–		
	Robertson, Sir George	5		
	Robertson, Mr. John	4		
	Robinson, Mr.	–		
	Rogers, Mr.	3		Added 12 March.
	Ropner, Sir Robert	–		
	Russell, Mr. T. W.	–		
	Samuel, Mr. Herbert	1		Added 17 April.
	Shackleton, Mr.	1		
	Smeaton, Mr.	6		
	Soames, Mr.	–		
	Solicitor-General for Scotland, Mr.	1		
	Strachey, Sir Edward	–		Discharged 17 April.
	Talbot, Mr. John	–		
	Taylor, Mr. Austin	2		
	Taylor, Mr. Theodore	1		
	Thomas, Mr. D. A.	1		
	Verney, Mr.	5		
	Walrond, Mr.	1		
	Walsh, Mr.	2		
	Wason, Mr. Cathcart	6		
	White, Mr. George	2		
	Williams, Mr. Osmond	–		
	Willoughby de Eresby, Lord	2		
	Wolff, Mr.	1		
	Young, Mr.	1		
	Added in respect of the Education Acts Amendment Bill - (15)	–	1	
	Butcher, Mr.	1		
	Cornwall, Sir Edwin	1		
	Davies, Mr. Ellis	–		
	Jones, Mr. Leif	–		
	Lough, Mr.	1		
	Masterman, Mr.	1		

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	REMARKS.
Standing Committee on Trade, &c.—*continued.*	Parker, Mr.	–		
	Rea, Mr. Walter	1		
	Rees, Mr.	–		
	Richardson, Mr.	–		
	Sheffield, Sir Berkeley	1		
	Smith, Mr. Frederick Edwin	–		
	Talbot, Mr.	–		
	Trevelyan, Mr.	1		
	Williamson, Mr.	1		
	Added in respect of the Railway (Contracts) Bill (15)	–	1	
	Banbury, Sir Frederick	1		
	Beale, Mr.	1		
	Brunner, Mr.	–		
	Crooks, Mr.	1		
	Edwards, Mr. Clement	1		
	Helmsley, Viscount	1		
	Holland, Sir William	–		
	Hyde, Mr.	–		
	Lambton, Mr.	1		
	Menzies, Mr.	1		
	Mond, Mr.	1		
	Myer, Mr.	1		
	Smith, Mr. Abel	1		
	Wedgwood, Mr.	1		
	Williams, Mr. John	–		
	Added in respect of the Merchandise Marks Bill (15)	-	2	
	Boland, Mr.	2		
	Cleland, Mr.	1		
	Cox, Mr. Harold	–		
	Crosfield, Mr.	–		
	Davies, Mr. Ellis	1		
	Field, Mr.	–		
	Holland, Sir William	1		
	Hudson, Mr. Walter	–		
	Lowe, Sir Francis	–		
	Maddison, Mr.	2		
	Middlemore, Mr.	–		
	Risdale, Mr.	2		
	Stone, Sir Benjamin	–		
	Vincent, Sir Howard	2		
	Wadsworth, Mr.	–		
	Added in respect of the Irish Tobacco Bill (15)	–	1	
	Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr.	1		
	Boland, Mr.	1		
	Cavendish, Mr. Victor	–		

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	REMARKS.
Standing Committee on Trade, &c.—*continued.*	Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr.	–		
	Dolan, Mr.	1		
	Gordon, Mr.	–		
	Gwynn, Mr.	1		
	Hazleton, Mr.	–		
	Kennedy, Mr. Vincent	1		
	M'Calmont, Colonel	1		
	Mooney, Mr.	–		
	Nolan, Mr.	1		
	Reddy, Mr.	–		
	Redmond, Mr. William	1		
	Runciman, Mr.	1		
	Added in respect of the Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill - (15)	–	1	
	Abraham, Mr. William (*Rhondda*).	–		
	Bilson, Sir Alfred	1		
	Castlereagh, Viscount	1		
	Cory, Mr.	1		
	Douglas, Mr. Akers	–		
	Edwards, Mr. Enoch	1		
	Glover, Mr.	–		
	Harvey, Mr. William Edwin	–		
	Hope, Mr. John	–		
	Johnson, Mr. John	1		Added in respect of this Bill, vice Mr. William Johnson, discharged 18 April.
	Lambton, Mr.	1		
	Raphael, Mr.	1		
	Taylor, Mr. John	–		
	Wilson, Mr. John (*Durham*)	1		
	Yoxall, Mr.	1		

	Number.
Total Number of Members who served on Select Committees	312

House of Commons.
1907.

EVERARD H. DOYLE,
Principle Clerk of Committees.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 19 August, 1907; for,

RETURN, "for the Session of 1907, of (1) the TOTAL NUMBER and the NAMES of all MEMBERS (including and distinguishing Chairmen) who have been appointed to serve on one or more of the four STANDING COMMITTEES appointed under STANDING ORDER NO. 47, showing, with regard to each of such MEMBERS the NUMBER OF SITTINGS at which he was present and the NUMBER OF DIVISIONS in which he took part; and (2) the NUMBER of BILLS considered by all and by each of the STANDING COMMITTEE the number of days on which each COMMITTEE sat, and the NAMES of all BILLS considered by a STANDING COMMITTEE distinguishing where a BILL was a GOVERNMENT BILL or was brought from the HOUSE OF LORDS, and showing in the case of each Bill the particular STANDING COMMITTEE by whom it was considered, the number of days on which it was considered by the COMMITTEE, and the number of MEMBERS present on each of those days."

Names of Members.	Standing Committee.
Abraham, Mr. W.	B., C.
Adkins, Mr.	A., B.
Agnew, Mr.	B., C.
Ainsworth, Mr.	B., Sc.
Alden, Mr.	A., C.
Allen, Mr.	A., B.
Ambrose, Mr.	C.
Anson, Sir William	A., B.
Anstruther-Gray, Major	Sc.
Arkwright, Mr.	A.
Ashley, Mr.	A., B.
Ashton, Mr.	C.
Asquith, Mr. Herbert	Sc.
Astbury, Mr.	A., C.
Atherley-Jones, Mr.	B., C.
Baker, Sir John	B.
Baker, Mr.	A
Balcarres, Lord	A.
Balfour, Captain	B., Sc.
Balfour, Mr. R.	Sc.
Banbury, Sir Frederick	A., B., Sc.
Banner, Mr. J. S. Harmood	A., C.
Baring, Mr. Godfrey	A.
Baring, Captain	A.
Barlow, Mr.	A.
Barnard, Mr.	B.
Barnes, Mr.	A., Sc.
Barran, Mr.	A., C.
Barrie, Mr.	A., B., Sc.
Barry, Mr.	A., B.
Beach, Mr. Hicks	B., C.
Beale, Mr.	A., Sc.
Beauchamp, Mr.	A., C.
Beck, Mr.	A., C.
Beckett, Mr. Gervase	A., C.
Bell, Mr.	A., C.
Benn, Sir J. W.	B., C.
Benn, Mr.	A., B.
Bennett, Mr.	B., C.
Berridge, Mr.	A., C.
Bertram, Mr.	A., C.
Bethell, Sir J. H.	A., C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur	Sc.
Billson, Mr.	A., C.
Birrell, Mr.	B.
Black, Mr.	B.
Boland, Mr.	A.
Bottomley, Mr.	B.
Bowles, Mr.	B., C.
Boyle, Sir Edward	A., Sc.
Brace, Mr.	B., C., Sc.
Bramsdon, Mr.	B., C.
Branch, Mr.	C.
Bridgeman, Mr.	A., B., C.
Bright, Mr.	B., C.
Brooke, Mr.	A.
Brotherton, Mr.	A.
Brunner, Mr. J.	C.
Bryce, Mr.	Sc.
Buchanan, Mr.	Sc.
Buckmaster, Mr.	B.
Burdett-Coutts, Mr. W.	A., C.
Burke, Mr.	A., B.
Burns, Mr. J.	A., B., C.
Butcher, Mr.	A., B.
Buxton, Mr. S.	B.
Byles, Mr.	B.
Cairns, Mr.	C.
Caldwell, Mr.	Sc.
Campbell, Mr. J.	B.
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.	Sc.
Carlile, Mr.	C.
Carson, Sir Edward	B.
Castlereagh, Viscount	B.
Cave, Mr.	A., B., C.
Cawley, Sir Frederick	A., C.
Cecil, Mr.	A., B.
Cecil, Lord John Joicey	A.
Cecil, Lord R.	A., B., C.
Chamberlain, Mr. J.	B.
Chance, Mr.	A.
Channing, Sir Francis	B., C.
Chaplin, Mr. Henry	B., C.
Cheetham, Mr.	A., C.
Cherry, Mr.	A., B.
Churchill, Mr. Winston	B.
Clancy, Mr.	B.
Clarke, Mr.	A.
Cleland, Mr.	A., B., Sc.
Clough, Mr.	B.
Clynes, Mr.	B.
Coates, Mr.	A., B.
Cobbold, Mr.	A.
Cochrane, Mr.	B., Sc.
Collings, Mr.	C.
Collins, Sir William	A., C.
Cooper, Mr.	A., B.
Corbett, Mr. Cameron	Sc.
Corbett, Mr. C. H.	B.
Corbett, Mr. T. L.	B., C.

Names of Members.	Standing Committee.
Cornwall, Sir Edwin	B., C.
Cotton, Sir H.	B.
Courthope, Mr. G. Loyd	B., C.
Cox, Mr.	A., B.
Craig, Mr. C. C.	A.
Craig, Mr. H. J.	C.
Craik, Sir Henry	C., Sc.
Crean, Mr.	A.
Cremer, Sir William Randall	C.
Crombie, Mr.	Sc.
Crooks, Mr.	B.
Crosfield, Mr.	A.
Cross, Mr.	C., Sc.
Crossley, Mr.	A., C.
Cullinan, Mr.	C.
Curran, Mr.	Sc.
Dalmeny, Lord	Sc.
Dalrymple, Viscount	Sc.
Dalziel, Mr.	B., Sc.
Davies, Mr. D.	A.
Davies, Mr. E.	A., C.
Davies, Mr. M.	B.
Davies, Mr. T.	A., C.
Devlin, Mr.	A., B.
Dewar, Mr.	A., B., Sc.
Dewar, Sir J. A.	Sc.
Dickenson, Mr.	C.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John	C.
Dillon, Mr.	B.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Frederick Dixon	C.
Dobson, Mr.	A.
Dolan, Mr.	C.
Doughty, Sir George	C.
Douglas, Mr. Akers	B.
Duckworth, Mr.	B., C.
Du Cros, Mr.	B.
Duncan, Mr. C.	C.
Duncan, Mr. J.	C.
Duncan, Mr. R.	Sc.
Dunn, Mr.	C.
Dunne, Major	A., B., C.
Edwards, Mr. C.	C.
Edwards, Mr. E.	C.
Edwards, Sir Francis	B.
Elibank, Master of	Sc.
Erskine, Mr.	Sc.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas	A.
Essex, Mr.	C.
Esslemont, Mr.	Sc.
Evans, Mr.	B.
Everett, Mr.	A., C.
Faber, Mr. G.	C.
Faber, Mr. G. H.	C.
Farrell, Mr.	A.
Fell, Mr.	C.
Ferens, Mr.	B.
Ferguson, Mr.	C., Sc.
Fetherstonhaugh, Mr.	B.
Ffrench, Mr.	A., B., C.
Findlay, Mr.	C., Sc.
Flavin, Mr.	C.
Flynn, Mr.	A., B.
Foster, Mr.	A., C.
Freeman-Thomas, Mr.	A.
Furness, Sir Christopher	A.
Gardner, Colonel	A.
Gardner, Mr.	C.
Gibb, Mr.	A., C.
Gibbs, Mr.	A., B.
Gill, Mr.	C.
Gladstone, Mr.	A., B.
Glen-Coats, Sir T.	Sc.
Glendinning, Mr.	A.
Glover, Mr.	A.
Gooch, Mr.	A.
Gordon, Mr.	C.
Grant, Mr.	A., C.
Greenwood, Mr. G.	A., B.
Greenwood, Mr. Hamar	B.
Gretton, Mr.	C.
Griffith, Mr.	A.
Guest, Mr.	C.
Gulland, Mr.	A.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton	A.
Gwynn, Mr.	A.
Haddock, Mr.	A., B.
Haldane, Mr.	Sc.
Hall, Mr.	A., B.
Halpin, Mr.	B.
Harcourt, Mr. Lewis	C.
Hardy, Mr. G.	A., B., C.
Hardy, Mr. L.	C.
Harmsworth, Mr. C.	A.
Harmsworth, Mr. R. L.	Sc.
Harrington, Mr.	A.
Harris, Mr.	A.
Harrison-Broadley, Mr.	A., C.
Hart-Davies, Mr.	A., C.
Harvey, Mr. A.	A., B.
Harvey, Mr. W.	A., B., C.
Harwood, Mr.	B.
Haslam, Mr. J.	B.
Haslam, Mr. L.	A.
Haworth, Mr.	C.
Hay, Mr.	C.
Hayden, Mr.	B., C.
Hazel, Mr.	A.
Hazleton, Mr.	A., B.
Healy, Mr.	C.
Heaton, Mr. H.	B.
Hedges, Mr.	A., C.
Helme, Mr.	A., B.
Helmsley, Viscount	Sc.
Henderson, Mr. A.	B.
Henderson, Mr. J.	Sc.
Herbert, Col. Sir Ivor	B.
Herbert, Mr.	B., C.
Hervey, Mr.	A., C.
Hervey, Captain	C.
Higham, Mr.	B., C
Hills, Mr.	A., C., Sc.
Hodge, Mr.	A., C.
Hogan, Mr.	B.
Holden, Mr.	A.
Holland, Sir W. H.	A.
Holt, Mr.	A., B.
Hooper, Mr.	B.
Hope, Mr. J.	Sc.
Hope, Mr. W.	A., B.
Hornby, Sir William H.	A.
Horniman, Mr.	C.
Houston, Mr.	A., C.

Names of Members.	Standing Committee.
Howard, Mr. Geoffrey	C.
Hunt, Mr.	B.
Hutton, Mr.	B.
Idris, Mr.	C.
Isaacs, Mr.	A., C.
Jackson, Mr.	A.
Jardine, Sir J.	A., Sc.
Jenkins, Mr.	A.
Johnson, Mr. J.	B.
Johnson, Mr. W.	A., C.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor	A., B.
Jones, Mr. L.	A., B., C.
Jones, Mr. W.	B.
Jowett, Mr.	A., C.
Joyce, Mr.	A.
Kearley, Mr.	A., C.
Kennaway, Sir John	A.
Kennedy, Mr.	A., B.
Kenyon-Slaney, Col.	Sc.
Kettle, Mr.	B.
Kilbride, Mr.	B.
Kimber, Sir Henry	A., B., Sc.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain	C.
King, Mr.	A., B., C.
King, Sir Henry Seymour	A.
Laidlaw, Mr.	Sc.
Lambert, Mr.	C.
Lambton, Mr.	A., B., Sc.
Lamont, Mr.	Sc.
Lane-Fox, Mr.	B., C.
Lardner, Mr.	B.
Law, Mr. A.	A., C.
Law, Mr. H.	Sc.
Layland-Barratt, Mr.	A.
Leese, Sir Joseph	B.
Lehmann, Mr.	C.
Liddell, Mr.	A.
Lloyd-George, Mr.	A., C.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col.	A.
Long, Col.	C.
Long, Mr. W.	B., C., Sc.
Lonsdale, Mr.	B.
Lough, Mr.	B.
Lowe, Sir Francis W.	A., B.
Lundon, Mr.	B.
Lupton, Mr.	B., C.
Luttrell, Mr.	A.
Lynch, Mr.	B.
Lyttelton, Mr.	A., B.
Macdonald, Mr. J. R.	A., B., C.
Macdonald, Mr. J. M.	Sc.
Mackarness, Mr.	B.
Maclean, Mr.	B.
Macnamara, Dr.	A., B., C.
McNeill, Mr.	A.
Macpherson, Mr.	A.
MacVeagh, Mr. J.	B., C.
MacVeigh, Mr. C.	A.
M'Callum, Mr.	Sc.
M'Calmont, Colonel	A., C.
M'Crae, Mr.	A., Sc.
M'Hugh, Mr.	B.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis	Sc.
M'Kenna, Mr.	A., B.
M'Killop, Mr.	A., Sc.
M'Laren, Mr.	C.
M'Micking, Major	B., C., Sc.
Maddison, Mr.	C.
Magnus, Sir Philip	C.
Mallet, Mr.	A., B.
Manfield, Mr.	A.
Mansfield, Mr.	A., C.
Marks, Mr.	C.
Marnham, Mr.	A., B.
Mason, Mr. A. E. W.	A.
Mason, Mr. J. F.	A., Sc.
Massie, Mr.	B.
Masterman, Mr.	A., B., C.
Meehan, Mr.	B.
Menzies, Mr.	Sc.
Meysey Thompson, Mr.	A., B., C.
Micklem, Mr.	A.
Middlemore, Mr.	A.
Molteno, Mr.	Sc.
Mond, Mr.	B., C.
Money, Mr.	A., B.
Montague, Mr.	C.
Montgomery, Mr.	B.
Mooney, Mr.	A., B.
Moore, Mr.	A., B., Sc.
Morgan, Mr. G.	A.
Morgan, Mr. J.	A., B.
Morley, Mr. J.	Sc.
Morpeth, Viscount	B., C.
Morrell, Mr.	A., C.
Morton, Mr.	A., Sc.
Muntz, Sir Philip	A.
Murphy, Mr. J.	B., C.
Murphy, Mr. N. J.	A.
Murray, Mr.	B., Sc.
Myer, Mr.	C.
Nannetti, Mr.	B.
Napier, Mr.	A., C.
Nicholls, Mr.	A., B., C., Sc.
Nicholson, Mr. C.	A., B.
Nicholson, Mr. W.	C.
Nield, Mr.	Sc.
Nolan, Mr.	B.
Norman, Sir Henry	A.
Nugent, Sir Walter R.	A.
Nussey, Mr.	A. C.
Nuttall, Mr.	B.
O'Connor, Mr. J.	C., Sc.
O'Connor, Mr. T. P.	B.
O'Grady, Mr.	B.
O'Mara, Mr.	A.
O'Neill, Mr.	A.
O'Shaughnessy, Mr.	A.
O'Shee, Mr.	A. B.
Parker, Mr.	B., C.
Parkes, Mr.	A.
Partington, Mr.	A.
Paul, Mr.	C.
Paulton, Mr.	B.
Pearce, Mr.	A., B.
Pease, Mr.	A.
Percy, Earl	C.
Philipps, Mr.	C.

Names of Members.	Standing Committee.
Pickersgill, Mr.	B., C.
Pirie, Mr.	Sc.
Pollard, Dr.	A.
Powell, Sir Francis	A., B.
Power, Mr.	A.
Price, Mr.	B., Sc.
Priestley, Mr.	C.
Pullar, Sir Robert	Sc.
Radford, Mr.	A., C.
Rainy, Mr.	B., Sc.
Raphael, Mr.	A.
Rawlinson, Mr.	A., B., C.
Rea, Mr. Russell	A.
Rea, Mr. W. R.	B., C.
Reddy, Mr.	A.
Redmond, Mr. J.	B.
Redmond, Mr. W.	A., B., C.
Rees, Mr.	C.
Remnant, Mr.	Sc.
Rendall, Mr.	A., C.
Richards, Mr. T.	A.
Richards, Mr. T. F.	B., C., Sc.
Richardson, Mr.	B.
Rickett, Mr. Compton	A.
Ridsdale, Mr.	A., C.
Roberts, Mr. C.	A., B., C.
Roberts, Mr. G. H.	B., C.
Roberts, Mr. S.	A.
Robertson, Mr. E.	Sc.
Robertson, Sir G. Scott	C.
Robertson, Mr. J. M.	B.
Robinson, Mr.	A.
Robson, Sir William S.	A., B., C.
Roe, Sir Thomas	B
Rogers, Mr.	B., C.
Ronaldshay, Earl of	A.
Rothschild, Mr. Lionel	A.
Rowlands, Mr.	C.
Runciman, Mr.	B.
Russell, Mr.	A., B.
Rutherford, Mr.	B.
Salter, Mr.	B.
Samuel, Mr.	A., B.
Sandys, Lieut-Colonel	A.
Schwann, Mr. C. D.	A., B.
Schwann, Sir C. E.	A.
Scott, Mr.	B.
Scott, Sir S.	C., Sc.
Sears, Mr.	C.
Seaverns, Mr.	A.
Seddon, Mr.	C., Sc.
Seely, Colonel	A.
Shackleton, Mr.	A., C.
Shaw, Mr.	Sc.
Sheehan, Mr.	A.
Sherwell, Mr.	A.
Shipman, Dr.	A., B.
Silcock, Mr.	A., B., C.
Sinclair, Mr.	Sc.
Sloan, Mr.	A., B.
Smeaton, Mr.	A., Sc.
Smith, Mr. Abel	C., Sc.
Smith, Mr. W. F. D.	C.
Smyth, Mr.	A., B.
Soames, Mr.	C.
Soares, Mr.	B., C.
Spicer, Sir Albert	C.
Stanger, Mr.	B.
Stanley, Mr. Lyulph	B.
Starkey, Mr.	Sc.
Staveley-Hill, Mr.	A., Sc.
Steadman, Mr.	B.
Stewart, Mr. Halley	Sc.
Stewart-Smith, Mr.	C.
Stone, Sir Benjamin	A.
Strachey, Sir Edward	B., C.
Strauss, Mr.	A., C.
Stuart, Mr. James	B.
Sutherland, Mr.	Sc.
Talbot, Lord E.	B.
Tayler, Mr. A.	B.
Taylor, Mr. J.	C.
Taylor, Mr. T.	A., B., C.
Tennant, Sir Edward	B.
Tennant, Mr.	A., B., Sc.
Thomas, Mr. Abel	A., B.
Thomas, Mr. David	B.
Thompson, Mr. J. W. H.	A.
Thomson, Mr. W. Mitchell	A., B., Sc.
Thornton, Mr.	A., C.
Torrance, Sir A. M.	A., Sc.
Toulmin, Mr.	B.
Trevelyan, Mr.	A., Sc.
Tuke, Sir John Batty	C., Sc.
Turnour, Viscount	A., B., C.
Ure, Mr.	B., Sc.
Verney, Mr.	A., C.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard	A., B., C.
Vivian, Mr.	C., Sc.
Waldron, Mr.	A.
Walker, Mr.	C.
Walrond, Mr.	A., C.
Walsh, Mr.	B.
Walton, Sir John L.	A., B., C.
Walton, Mr.	B.
Ward, Mr. John	A., C., Sc.
Ward, Mr. W.	C.
Warde, Colonel C. E.	A.
Wardle, Mr.	B.
Waring, Mr.	Sc.
Warner, Mr.	A. C.
Wason, Mr. E.	Sc.
Wason, Mr. J.	A. Sc.
Waterlow, Mr.	C.
Watt, Mr.	A., C., Sc.
Wedgwood, Mr.	B., C.
Weir, Mr.	A., Sc.
White, Mr. G.	B., C.
White, Mr. J.	C., Sc.
White, Mr. L.	A.
White, Mr. P.	C.
Whitehead, Mr.	A., B., C.
Whittaker, Sir Thomas P.	B.
Wiles, Mr.	B.
Wilkie, Mr.	Sc.
Williams, Mr.	B., C.
Williamson, Mr.	Sc.
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord	B., C., Sc.
Wills, Mr.	A.
Wilson, Mr. H. J.	A.

Names of Members.	Standing Committee.	Names of Members.	Standing Committee.
Wilson, Mr. John - - -	C., Sc.	Wortley, Mr. C. Stuart - -	C.
Wilson, Mr. J. W. - - -	A.	Wyndham, Mr. George - -	A., B.
Wilson, Mr. P. W. - - -	B.		
Wilson, Mr. W. T. - - -	A., B., C.		
Winfrey, Mr. - - - -	B., C.	Young, Mr. - - - -	C.
Wolff, Mr. - - - -	A., B.	Younger, Mr. - - - -	A., Sc.
Wood, Mr. - - - -	A., Sc.	Yoxall, Mr. - - - -	B.

I.

Total Number of Members appointed to serve on Standing Committees (including Chairmen) - - - - - - - - - - 502

Names of Members.	Standing Committee.	Number of Sittings each Member attended.	Number of Divisions in which each Member took part.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas	A.	2	Chairmen.
Hardy, Mr. Laurence	C.	8	
Holland, Sir William	A., Sc.	14	
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor	A., B.	14	
Wason, Right Hon. Eugene	Sc.	22	
Wilson, Mr. John (*Durham*)	C., Sc.	4	
Wilson, Mr. J. W. (*Worcestershire*)	B., C.	4	
Wortley, Right Hon. C. B. Stuart	C.	16	
Abraham, Mr. W. (*Cork, North-East*)	B., C.	4	9
Adkins, Mr. W. Ryland D.	A., B.	1	2
Agnew, Mr. George William	B., C.	5	3
Ainsworth, Mr. John Stirling	B., Sc.	30	155
Alden, Mr. Percy	A., C.	11	17
Allen, Mr. A. Acland (*Christchurch*)	A., B.	10	9
Ambrose, Mr. Robert	C.	1	0
Anson, Sir William Reynell	A., B.	3	4
Anstruther-Gray, Major	Sc.	22	94
Arkwright, Mr. John Stanhope	A.	1	0
Ashley, Mr. W. W.	A., B.	2	5
Ashton, Mr. Thomas Gair	C.	3	5
Asquith, Right Hon. Herbert Henry	Sc.	1	1
Astbury, Mr. John Meir	A., C.	4	1
Atherley-Jones, Mr. L.	B., C.	1	0
Baker, Sir John (*Portsmouth*)	B.	0	0
Baker, Mr. Joseph A. (*Finsbury, East*)	A.	4	5
Balcarres, Lord	A.	1	5
Balfour, Captain (*Hornsey*)	B., Sc.	1	0
Balfour, Mr. Robert (*Lanark*)	Sc.	3	5
Banbury, Sir Frederick George	A., B., Sc.	24	137
Banner, Mr. John S. Harmood	A., C.	17	13
Baring, Mr. Godfrey (*Isle of Wight*)	A.	12	4
Baring, Captain Hon. G. (*Winchester*)	A.	1	1
Barlow, Mr. Percy (*Bedford*)	A.	2	2
Barnard, Mr. E. B.	B.	3	3
Barnes, Mr. G. N.	A., Sc.	21	84
Barran, Mr. Rowland Hirst	A., C.	9	32
Barrie, Mr. Hugh T. (*Londonderry, North*)	A., B., Sc.	6	23
Barry, Mr. Redmond J. (*Tyrone, North*)	A., B.	0	0
Beach, Hon. Michael Hugh Hicks	B. C.	16	91
Beale, Mr. W. P.	A., Sc.	20	118
Beauchamp, Mr. E.	A., C.	3	0
Beck, Mr. A. Cecil	A., C.	1	10
Beckett, Hon. Gervase	A., C.	14	77
Bell, Mr. Richard	A., C.	4	0
Benn, Sir J. Williams (*Devonport*)	B., C.	0	0
Benn, Mr. W. (*Tower Hamlets, St. George's*)	A., B.	1	2
Bennett, Mr. E. N.	B., C.	4	17
Berridge, Mr. T. H. D.	A., C.	3	4
Bertram, Mr. Julius	A., C.	5	4
Bethell, Sir J. H. (*Essex, Romford*)	A., C.	16	51
Bignold, Sir Arthur	Sc.	16	122
Billson, Sir Alfred	A., C.	12	27
Birrell, Right Hon. Augustine	B.	0	0
Black, Mr. Arthur W.	B.	4	4
Boland, Mr. John	A.	1	0
Bottomley, Mr. Horatio	B.	1	2
Bowles, Mr. G. Stewart	B., C.	6	16
Boyle, Sir Edward	A., Sc.	4	15

Names of Members.	Standing Committee.	Number of Sittings each Member attended.	Number of Divisions in which each Member took part.
Brace, Mr. William	B., C., Sc.	15	38
Bramsdon, Mr. T. A,	B., C.	19	47
Branch, Mr. James	C.	6	4
Bridgeman, Mr. W. Clive	A., B., C.	14	73
Bright, Mr. J. A.	B., C.	7	7
Brooke, Mr. Stopford	A.	0	0
Brotherton, Mr. Edward Allen	A.	0	0
Brunner, Mr. J. F. L. (*Lancashire, Leigh*)	C.	6	3
Bryce, Mr. J. Annan	Sc.	16	85
Buchanan, Mr. Thomas Ryburn	Sc.	5	22
Buckmaster, Mr. Stanley O.	B.	0	0
Burdett-Coutts, Mr. W.	A., C.	0	0
Burke, Mr. E. Haviland	A., B.	0	0
Burns, Right Hon. John	A., B., C.	21	45
Butcher, Mr. Samuel Henry	A., B.	3	8
Buxton, Right Hon. Sydney Charles	B.	1	1
Byles, Mr. William Pollard	B.	13	31
Cairns, Mr. Thomas	C.	0	0
Caldwell, Mr. James	Sc.	14	0
Campbell, Right Hon. J. H. M.	B.	0	0
Campbell-Bannerman, Right Hon. Sir H.	Sc.	0	0
Carlile, Mr. E. Hildred	C.	17	37
Carson, Right Hon. Sir Edward H.	B.	1	2
Castlereagh, Viscount	B.	4	7
Cave, Mr. George	A., B., C.	17	49
Cawley, Sir Frederick	A., C.	8	5
Cecil, Mr. Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)	A., B.	8	4
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey	A.	2	6
Cecil, Lord R. (*Marylebone, East*)	A., B., C.	8	6
Chamberlain, Right Hon. J. A. (*Worcestershire*)	B.	0	0
Chance, Mr. Frederick William	A.	4	2
Channing, Sir Francis Allston	B., C.	26	74
Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry	B., C.	15	92
Cheetham, Mr. John Frederick	A., C.	26	67
Cherry, Right Hon. R. R.	A., B.	2	0
Churchill, Right Hon. Winston S.	B.	1	1
Clancy, Mr. John Joseph	B.	0	0
Clarke, Mr. C. Goddard (*Peckham*)	A.	0	0
Cleland, Mr. J. W.	A., B., Sc.	38	172
Clough, Mr. William	B.	1	2
Clynes, Mr. J. R.	B.	4	6
Coates, Mr. E. Feetham (*Lewisham*)	A., B.	1	3
Cobbold, Mr. Felix Thornley	A.	9	7
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	B., Sc.	28	172
Collings, Right Hon. J. (*Birmingham*)	C.	15	86
Collins, Sir William J. (*St. Pancras, West*)	A., C.	5	6
Cooper, Mr. G. J.	A., B.	6	8
Corbett, Mr. A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)	Sc.	5	1
Corbett, Mr. C. H. (*Sussex, East Grinstead*)	B.	4	6
Corbett, Mr. T. L. (*Down, North*)	B., C.	2	4
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.	B., C.	9	18
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.	B.	9	15
Courthope, Mr. G. Lloyd	B., C.	14	54
Cox, Mr. Harold	A., B.	1	1
Craig, Mr. Charles Curtis (*Antrim, South*)	A.	0	0
Craig, Mr. Herbert J. (*Tynemouth*)	C.	8	3
Craik, Sir Henry	C., Sc.	31	167
Crean, Mr. Eugene	A.	1	0
Cremer, Sir William Randall	C.	24	66
Crombie, Mr. John William	Sc.	21	153
Crooks, Mr. William	B.	1	3
Crosfield, Mr. A. H.	A.	0	0
Cross, Mr. Alexander	C., Sc.	1	2
Crossley, Mr. William J.	A., C.	2	1
Cullinan, Mr. J.	C.	10	38
Curran, Mr. Peter Francis	Sc.	3	4

Names of Members.	Standing Committee.	Number of Sittings each Member attended.	Number of Divisions in which each Member took part.
Dalmeny, Lord	Sc.	0	0
Dalrymple, Viscount	Sc.	19	93
Dalziel, Mr. James Henry	B., Sc.	14	60
Davies, Mr. David (*Montgomery Co.*)	A.	0	0
Davies, Mr. Ellis William (*Eifion*)	A., C.	15	70
Davies, Mr. M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*)	B.	3	7
Davies, Mr. Timothy (*Fulham*)	A., C.	15	11
Devlin, Mr. Joseph	A., B.	0	0
Dewar, Mr. Arthur (*Edinburgh, South*)	A., B., Sc.	38	140
Dewar, Sir J. A. (*Inverness-shire*)	Sc.	25	140
Dickinson, Mr. W. H. (*St. Pancras, North*)	C.	20	77
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	C.	14	67
Dillon, Mr. John	B.	0	0
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Frederick Dixon	C.	6	8
Dobson, Mr. Thomas W.	A.	0	0
Dolan, Mr. Charles Joseph.	C.	0	0
Doughty, Sir George	C.	1	1
Douglas, Right Hon. A. Akers	B.	8	14
Duckworth, Mr. James	B., C.	10	7
Du Cros, Mr. Harvey	B.	0	0
Duncan, Mr. C. (*Barrow-in-Furness*)	C.	0	0
Duncan, Mr. J. Hastings (*York, Otley*)	C.	0	0
Duncan, Mr. Robert (*Lanark, Govan*)	Sc.	15	72
Dunn, Mr. A. Edward (*Camborne*)	C.	3	3
Dunne, Major E. Martin (*Walsall*)	A., B., C.	19	84
Edwards, Mr. Clement (*Denbigh*)	C.	10	19
Edwards, Mr. Enoch (*Hanley*)	C.	0	0
Edwards, Sir Francis (*Radnor*)	B.	0	0
Elibank, Master of	Sc.	25	68
Erskine, Mr. David C.	Sc.	27	170
Essex, Mr. R. W.	C.	11	46
Esslemont, Mr. George Birnie	Sc.	25	119
Evans, Mr. Samuel T.	B.	2	3
Everett, Mr. R. Lacey	A., C.	7	3
Faber, Mr. George Denison (*York*	C.	17	80
Faber, Mr. G. H. (*Boston*)	C.	0	0
Farrell, Mr. James Patrick	A.	1	0
Fell, Mr. Arthur	C.	2	4
Ferens, Mr. T. R.	B.	6	14
Ferguson, Mr. R. C. Munro	C., Sc.	29	168
Fetherstonhaugh, Mr. Godfrey	B.	0	0
Ffrench, Mr. Peter	A., B., C.	2	6
Findlay, Mr. Alexander	C. Sc.	29	112
Flavin, Mr. Michael Joseph	C.	0	0
Flynn, Mr. James Christopher	A., B.	4	8
Foster, Right Hon. Sir Walter	A., C.	12	46
Freeman-Thomas, Mr. Freeman	A.	1	0
Furness, Sir Christopher	A.	1	0
Gardner, Colonel Alan (*Hereford*)	A.	0	0
Gardner, Mr. Eenest (*Berks, East*)	C.	14	72
Gibb, Mr. James (*Harrow*)	A., C.	5	3
Gibbs, Mr. G. A. (*Bristol, West*)	A., B.	2	1
Gill, Mr. A. H.	C.	4	17
Gladstone, Right Hon. Herbert John	A., B.	8	17
Glen-Coats, Sir T. (*Renfrew, West*)	Sc.	15	79
Glendinning, Mr. R. G.	A.	1	0
Glover, Mr. Thomas	A.	2	0
Gooch, Mr. George Peabody	A.	1	5
Gordon, Mr. J.	C.	4	4
Grant, Mr. Corrie	A., C.	17	94
Greenwood, Mr. G. (*Petorborough*)	A., B.	6	3
Greenwood, Mr. Hamar (*York*)	B.	0	0
Gretton, Mr. John	C.	15	84
Griffith, Mr. Ellis J.	A.	1	1

Names of Members.	Standing Committee.	Number of Sittings each Member attended.	Number of Divisions in which each Member took part.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill	C.	10	43
Gulland, Mr. John W.	A.	1	1
Gurdon, Right Hon. Sir W. Brampton	A.	1	0
Gwynn, Mr. Stephen Lucius	A.	7	7
Haddock, Mr. George B.	A., B.	2	1
Haldane, Right Hon. Richard B.	Sc.	0	0
Hall, Mr. Frederick	A., B.	0	0
Halpin, Mr. J.	B.	6	21
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis	C.	15	92
Hardy, Mr. George A. (*Suffolk*)	A., B., C.	10	28
Harmsworth, Mr. Cecil B. (*Worcester*)	A.	1	1
Harmsworth, Mr. R. L. (*Caithness-shire*)	Sc.	26	167
Harrington, Mr. Timothy	A.	0	0
Harris, Mr. Frederick Leverton	A.	0	0
Harrison-Broadley, Mr. H. B.	A., C.	15	20
Hart-Davies, Mr. T.	A., C.	5	7
Harvey, Mr. A. G. C. (*Rochdale*)	A., B.	1	0
Harvey, Mr. W. E. (*Derbyshire, North-East*)	A., B., C.	2	4
Harwood, Mr. George	B.	5	7
Haslam, Mr. James (*Derbyshire*)	B.	0	0
Haslam, Mr. Lewis (*Monmouth*)	A.	1	0
Haworth, Mr. Arthur A.	C.	1	0
Hay, Hon. Claude George	C.	2	0
Hayden, Mr. John Patrick	B., C.	12	36
Hazel, Dr. A. E.	A.	0	0
Hazleton, Mr. Richard	A., B.	4	7
Healey, Mr. Timothy Michael	C.	4	9
Heaton, Mr. John Henniker	B.	3	1
Hedges, Mr. A. Paget	A., C.	3	24
Helme, Mr. Norval Watson	A., B.	0	0
Helmsley, Viscount	Sc.	18	130
Henderson, Mr. Arthur (*Durham*)	B.	3	5
Henderson, Mr. J. M. (*Aberdeen, West*)	Sc.	23	60
Herbert, Col. Sir Ivor (*Monmouth, South*)	B.	7	10
Herbert, Mr. T. Arnold (*Wycombe*)	B., C.	4	4
Hervey, Mr. F. W. F.	A., C.	5	4
Hervey, Captain (*Bury St. Edmonds*)	C.	6	41
Higham, Mr. John Sharp	B., C.	7	17
Hills, Mr. J. W.	A., C., Sc.	8	18
Hodge, Mr. John	A., C.	3	1
Hogan, Mr. Michael	B.	0	0
Holden, Mr. E. Hopkinson	A.	1	1
Holland, Sir William Henry	A.	2	1
Holt, Mr. Richard Durning	A., B.	4	5
Hooper, Mr. A. G.	B.	0	0
Hope, Mr. John Deans (*Fife, West*)	Sc.	15	69
Hope, Mr. W. Bateman (*Somerset, North*)	A., B.	5	7
Hornby, Sir William Henry	A.	0	0
Horniman, Mr. Emslie John	C.	6	6
Houston, Mr. Robert Paterson	A., C.	0	0
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey	C.	12	66
Hunt, Mr. Rowland	B.	2	7
Hutton, Mr. Alfred Eddison	B.	0	0
Idris, Mr. T. H. W.	C.	3	5
Isaacs, Mr. Rufus Daniel	A., C.	2	4
Jackson, Mr. R. S.	A.	1	0
Jardine, Sir J.	A., Sc.	31	137
Jenkins, Mr. J.	A.	0	0
Johnson, Mr. John (*Gateshead*)	B.	1	3
Johnson, Mr. W. (*Nuneaton*)	A., C.	0	0
Jones, Mr. Leif (*Appleby*)	A., B., C.	19	78
Jones, Mr. William (*Carnarvonshire*)	B.	6	19
Jowett, Mr. F. W.	A., C.	3	11
Joyce, Mr. Michael	A.	2	5

Names of Members.	Standing Committee.	Number of Sittings each Member attended.	Number of Divisions in which each Member took part.
Kearley, Mr. Hudson E.	A., C.	10	8
Kennaway, Right Hon. Sir John H.	A.	1	0
Kennedy, Mr. Vincent Paul	A., B.	1	0
Kenyon-Slaney, Right Hon. Colonel W.	Sc.	22	141
Kettle, Mr. Thomas Michael	B.	0	0
Kilbride, Mr. Denis	B.	2	6
Kimber, Sir Henry	A., B., Sc.	7	15
Kincaid-Smith, Captain	C.	3	3
King, Mr. Alfred John (*Knutsford*)	A., B., C.	7	7
King, Sir Henry Seymour (*Hull*)	A.	1	0
Laidlaw, Mr. Robert	Sc.	20	95
Lambert, Mr. George	C.	4	9
Lambton, Hon. Frederick William	A., B., Sc.	23	114
Lamont, Mr. Norman	Sc.	27	163
Lane-Fox, Mr. G. R.	B., C.	16	71
Lardner, Mr. James Carrige Rushe	B.	2	13
Law, Mr. Andrew Bonar (*Dulwich*)	A., C.	0	0
Law, Mr. Hugh A. (*Donegal, West*)	Sc.	4	2
Layland-Barratt, Mr. Francis	A.	1	1
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (*Accrington*)	B.	12	30
Lehmann, Mr. R. C.	C.	19	73
Liddell, Mr. Henry	A.	0	0
Lloyd-George, Right Hon. David	A., C.	12	7
Lockwood, Right Hon. Lt.-Col. A. R.	A.	0	0
Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*)	C.	12	41
Long, Right Hon. Walter (*Dublin, South*)	B., C., Sc.	21	120
Lonsdale, Mr. John Brownlee	B.	4	15
Lough, Mr. Thomas	B.	1	1
Lowe, Sir Francis William	A., B.	4	14
Lundon, Mr. W.	B.	4	15
Lupton, Mr. Arnold	B., C.	8	11
Luttrell, Mr. Hugh Fownes	A.	1	0
Lynch, Mr. H. B.	B.	0	0
Lyttleton, Right Hon. Alfred	A., B.	2	1
Macdonald, Mr. J. R. (*Leicester*)	A., B., C.	8	14
Macdonald, Mr. J. M. (*Falkirk Burghs*)	Sc.	25	86
Markarness, Mr. Frederic C.	B.	0	0
Maclean, Mr. Donald	B.	3	4
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.	A., B., C.	7	9
MacNeill, Mr. John Gordon Swift	A.	0	0
Macpherson, Mr. J. T.	A.	1	1
MacVeagh, Mr. Jeremiah (*Down, South*)	B., C.	4	9
MacVeigh, Mr. Charles (*Donegal, East*)	A.	0	0
M'Callum, Mr. John M.	Sc.	26	139
M'Calmont, Colonel James	A., C.	2	0
M'Crae, Mr. George	A., Sc.	27	166
M'Hugh, Mr. Patrick A.	B.	0	0
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh, West*)	Sc.	4	18
M'Kenna, Right Hon. Reginald	A., B.	3	2
M'Killop, Mr. W.	A., Sc.	0	0
M'Laren, Mr. H. D. (*Stafford, West*)	C.	8	7
M'Micking, Major G.	B., C., Sc.	26	152
Maddison, Mr. Frederick	C.	0	0
Magnus, Sir Philip	C.	11	6
Mallet, Mr. Charles E.	A., B.	3	2
Manfield, Mr. Harry (*Northants*)	A.	0	0
Mansfield, Mr. H. Rendall (*Lincoln*)	A., C.	7	39
Marks, Mr. G. Croydon (*Launceston*)	C.	6	4
Marnham, Mr. F. J.	A., B.	3	2
Mason, Mr. A. E. W. (*Coventry*)	A.	1	0
Mason, Mr. James F. (*Windsor*)	A., Sc.	20	124
Massie, Mr. J.	B.	3	6
Masterman, Mr. C. F. G.	A., B., C.	16	83
Meehan, Mr. Patrick A.	B.	2	2
Menzies, Mr. Walter	Sc.	18	82

Names of Members.	Standing Committee.	Number of Sittings each Member attended.	Number of Divisions in which each Member took part.
Meysey-Thompson, Mr. E. C.	A., B., C.	1	0
Micklem, Mr. Nathaniel	A.	1	0
Middlemore, Mr. John Throgmorton	A.	1	0
Molteno, Mr. Percy Alport	Sc.	27	157
Mond, Mr. A.	B., C.	9	8
Money, Mr. L. G. Chiozza	A., B.	0	0
Montagu, Mr. E. S.	C.	6	18
Montgomery, Mr. H. G.	B.	0	0
Mooney, Mr. J. J.	A., B.	9	8
Moore, Mr. William	A., B., Sc.	4	9
Morgan, Mr. G. Hay (*Cornwall*)	A.	1	0
Morgan, Mr. J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)	A., B.	7	4
Morley, Right Hon. John	Sc.	0	0
Morpeth, Viscount	B., C.	25	95
Morrell, Mr. Philip	A., C.	11	57
Morton, Mr. Alpheus Cleophas	A., Sc.	25	130
Muntz, Sir Philip A.	A.	0	0
Murphy, Mr. John (*Kerry, East*)	B., C.	0	0
Murphy, Mr. N. J. (*Kilkenny, South*)	A.	1	0
Murray, Mr. James	B., Sc.	22	129
Myer, Mr. Horatio	C.	0	0
Nannetti, Mr, Joseph P.	B.	0	0
Napier, Mr. T. B.	A., C.	25	42
Nicholls, Mr. George	A., B., C., Sc.	21	69
Nicholson, Mr. Charles N. (*Doncaster*)	A., B.	3	13
Nicholson, Mr. William G. (*Petersfield*)	C.	1	0
Nield, Mr. Herbert	Sc.	6	12
Nolan, Mr. Joseph	B.	7	24
Norman, Sir Henry	A.	0	0
Nugent, Sir Walter Richard	A.	0	0
Nussey, Mr. Thomas Willans	A., C.	11	56
Nuttall, Mr. Harry	B.	4	15
O'Connor, Mr. John (*Kildare, North*)	C., Sc.	7	27
O'Connor, Mr. T. P. (*Liverpool*)	B.	2	13
O'Grady, Mr. J.	B.	0	0
O'Mara, Mr.	A.	0	0
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens	A.	1	0
O'Shaughnessy, Mr. P. J.	A.	6	6
O'Shee, Mr. James John	A., B.	0	0
Parker, Mr. James (*Halifax*)	B., C.	11	38
Parkes, Mr. Ebenezer	A.	2	0
Partington, Mr. Oswald	A.	1	0
Paul, Mr. Herbert	C.	0	0
Paulton, Mr. James Mellor	B.	7	9
Pearce, Mr. William (*Limehouse*)	A., B.	0	0
Pease, Mr. J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)	A.	0	0
Percy, Earl	C.	4	2
Philipps, Mr. J. Wynford (*Pembroke*)	C.	0	0
Pickersgill, Mr. Edward Hare	B., C.	22	51
Pirie, Mr. Duncan V.	Sc.	19	112
Pollard, Dr.	A.	7	2
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp	A., B.	14	29
Power, Mr. Patrick Joseph	A.	0	0
Price, Mr. C. E. (*Edinburgh, Central*)	B., Sc.	38	157
Priestley, Mr. W. E. B. (*Bradford, East*)	C.	20	44
Pullar, Sir Robert	Sc.	23	125
Radford, Mr. G. H.	A., C.	6	4
Rainy, Mr. A. Rolland	B., Sc.	14	73
Raphael, Mr. Herbert H.	A.	2	1
Rawlinson, Mr. John Frederick Peel	A., B., C.	4	2
Rea, Mr. Russell (*Gloucester*)	A.	1	0
Rea, Mr. Walter Russell (*Scarborough*)	B., C.	3	2
Reddy, Mr. M.	A.	0	0

Name of Members.	Standing Committee.	Number of Sittings each Member attended.	Number of Divisions in which each Member took part.
Redmond, Mr. John E. (*Waterford*) - -	B.	0	0
Redmond, Mr. William (*Clare*) - - -	A., B., C.	7	13
Rees, Mr J. D. - - - - - -	C.	19	58
Remnant, Mr. James Farquharson - - -	Sc.	3	12
Rendall, Mr. Athelstan - - - - - -	A., C.	5	2
Richards, Mr. Thomas (*West Monmouth*) -	A.	0	0
Richards, Mr. T. F. (*Wolverhampton, West*) -	B., C., Sc.	5	4
Richardson, Mr. A. - - - - - - -	B.	2	6
Rickett, Mr. J. Compton - - - - -	A.	3	3
Ridsdale, Mr. E. A. - - - - - -	A., C.	12	6
Roberts, Mr, Charles H. (*Lincoln*) - - -	A., B., C.	13	15
Roberts, Mr G. H. (*Norwich*) - - - -	B., C.	4	26
Roberts, Mr. S. (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) - -	A.	2	1
Robertson, Right Hon. E. (*Dundee*) - -	Sc.	1	3
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (*Bradford*) - - -	C.	24	76
Robertson, Mr. J. M. (*Tyneside*) - - -	B.	9	22
Robinson, Mr. S. - - - - - - -	A.	2	0
Robson, Sir William Snowdon - - - -	A., B., C.	17	40
Roe, Sir Thomas - - - - - - -	B.	3	2
Rogers, Mr. F. E. Newman - - - -	B., C.	22	120
Ronaldshay, Earl of - - - - - -	A.	2	0
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter - - -	A.	5	1
Rowlands, Mr. J. - - - - - - -	C.	14	66
Runciman, Mr. Walter - - - - -	B.	0	0
Russell, Mr. T. W. - - - - - - -	A., B.	2	6
Rutherford, Mr. John (*Lancashire*) - - -	B.	1	1
Salter, Mr. Arthur Clavell - - - - -	B.	0	0
Samuel, Mr. Herbert L, (*Cleveland*) - -	A., B.	12	14
Sandys, Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Myles - -	A.	0	0
Schwann, Mr. C. Duncan (*Hyde*) - - -	A., B.	1	1
Schwann, Sir C. E. (*Manchester*) - - -	A.	1	5
Scott, Mr. A. H. (*Ashton-under-Lyne*) - -	B.	1	6
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, West*) - - -	C., Sc.	24	146
Sears, Mr. J. E. - - - - - - -	C.	3	5
Seaverns, Mr. J. H. - - - - - - -	A.	7	6
Seddon, Mr. J. - - - - - - -	C., Sc.	14	29
Seely, Colonel - - - - - - - -	A.	8	8
Shackleton, Mr. David James - - - -	A., C.	5	8
Shaw, Right Hon. T. (*Hawick, Burghs*) - -	Sc.	27	147
Sheehan, Mr. Daniel Daniel - - - -	A.	0	0
Sherwell, Mr. Arthur James - - - -	A.	1	1
Shipman, Dr. John G. - - - - - -	A., B.	10	20
Silcock, Mr. Thomas Ball - - - -	A., B., C.	11	54
Sinclair, Right Hon. John - - - -	Sc.	28	168
Sloan, Mr. Thomas Henry - - - -	A., B.	2	1
Smeaton, Mr. Donald Mackenzie - - -	A., Sc.	25	100
Smith, Mr. Abel H. (*Hertford, East*) - -	C., Sc.	20	130
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*) - - -	C.	0	0
Smyth, Mr. Thomas F. (*Leitrim, South*) - -	A., B.	3	5
Soames, Mr. Arthur Wellesley - - -	C.	16	62
Soares, Mr. Ernest J. - - - - - -	B., C.	13	66
Spicer, Sir Albert - - - - - - -	C.	4	2
Stanger, Mr. H. Y. - - - - - - -	B.	3	2
Stanley, Hon. A. Lyulph (*Cheshire*) - -	B.	1	1
Starkey, Mr. John R. - - - - - -	Sc.	11	98
Staveley-Hill, Mr. Henry (*Staffordshire*) -	A., Sc.	6	12
Steadman, Mr. W. C. - - - - - -	B.	1	1
Stewart, Mr. Halley (*Greenock*) - - -	Sc.	26	149
Stewart-Smith, Mr. (*Kendal*) - - - -	C.	3	1
Stone, Sir Benjamin - - - - - -	A.	1	0
Strachey, Sir Edward - - - - - -	B., C.	14	58
Straus, Mr. B. S. (*Mile End*) - - - -	A., C.	2	5
Stuart, Mr. James (*Sunderland*) - - -	B.	0	0
Sutherland, Mr. J. E. - - - - - -	Sc.	24	102

Names of Members.	Standing Committee.	Number of Sittings each Member attended.	Number of Divisions in which each Member took part.
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)	B.	2	6
Taylor, Mr. Austin (*East Toxteth*)	B.	9	24
Taylor, Mr. John W. (*Durham*)	C.	2	1
Taylor, Mr. Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)	A., B., C.	11	10
Tennant, Sir Edward (*Salisbury*)	B.	0	0
Tennant, Mr. H. J. (*Berwickshire*)	A., B., Sc.	18	39
Thomas, Mr. Abel (*Carmarthen, East*)	A., B.	2	2
Thomas, Mr. David Alfred (*Merthyr*)	B.	1	1
Thompson, Mr. J. W. H. (*Somerset, East*)	A.	0	0
Thomson, Mr. W. Mitchell- (*Lanark*)	A., B., Sc.	26	165
Thornton, Mr. Percy M.	A., C.	5	5
Torrance, Sir A. M.	A., Sc.	26	154
Toulmin, Mr. George	B.	0	0
Trevelyan, Mr. Charles Phillips	A., Sc.	6	17
Tuke, Sir John Batty	C., Sc.	11	18
Turnour, Viscount	A., B., C.	0	0
Ure, Mr. Alexander	B., Sc.	26	157
Verney, Mr. F. W.	A., C.	31	99
Vincent, Colonel Sir C. E. Howard	A., B., C.	7	3
Vivian, Mr. Henry	C., Sc.	8	23
Waldron, Mr. Laurence Ambrose	A.	0	0
Walker, Mr. H. De R. (*Leicester*)	C.	21	72
Walrond, Hon. Lionel	A., C.	0	0
Walsh, Mr. Stephen	B.	2	4
Walton, Sir John L. (*Leeds, South*)	A., B., C.	6	2
Walton, Mr. Joseph (*Barnsley*)	B.	4	4
Ward, Mr. John (*Stoke-upon-Trent*)	A., C., Sc.	11	12
Ward, Mr. W. Dudley (*Southampton*)	C.	15	94
Warde, Colonel C. E. (*Kent, Mid*)	A.	1	1
Wardle, Mr. George J.	B.	1	1
Waring, Mr. Walter	Sc.	20	88
Warner, Mr. Thomas Courtenay T.	A., C.	14	41
Wason, Mr. John Cathcart (*Orkney*)	A., Sc.	33	166
Waterlow, Mr. D. S.	C.	1	0
Watt, Mr. Henry A.	A., C., Sc.	17	41
Wedgwood, Mr. Josiah C.	B., C.	15	59
Weir, Mr. James Galloway	A., Sc.	28	147
White, Mr. George (*Norfolk*)	B., C.	18	50
White, Mr. J. Dundas (*Dumbartonshire*)	C., Sc.	28	45
White, Mr. Luke (*York, East Riding*)	A.	1	1
White, Mr. Patrick (*Meath, North*)	C.	3	0
Whitehead, Mr. Rowland	A., B., C.	5	7
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer	B.	0	0
Wiles, Mr. Thomas	B.	0	0
Wilkie, Mr. Alexander	Sc.	13	81
Williams, Mr. Osmond (*Merioneth*)	B., C.	14	19
Williamson, Mr. A.	Sc.	8	25
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord	B., C., Sc.	24	96
Wills, Mr. Arthur Walters	A.	0	0
Wilson, Mr. Henry J. (*York, West Riding*)	A.	1	0
Wilson, Mr. J. W. (*Worcestershire, North*)	A.	1	1
Wilson, Mr. P. W. (*St. Pancras, South*)	B.	0	0
Wilson, Mr. W. T. (*Westhoughton*)	A., B., C.	15	91
Winfrey, Mr. R.	B., C.	16	87
Wolff, Mr. Gustav Wilhelm	A., B.	0	0
Wood, Mr. T. M'Kinnon	A., Sc.	25	96
Wyndham, Right Hon. George	A., B.	1	2
Young, Mr. Samuel	C.	10	35
Younger, Mr. George	A., Sc.	27	158
Youxall, Mr. James Henry	B.	3	2

II.

Total Number of Bills considered by Standing Committees - - - 34

Number of Bills considered by each of the Standing Committees and Number of Days each Committee sat:—

Standing Committee A. considered 16 Bills, and sat 11 days.
" " B. " 9 " " 14 "
" " C. " 6 " " 28 "
" " on Scottish Bills considered 3 Bills, and sat 29 days.

Title of Bill.	Considered by Committee.	Number of Days on which considered.	Number of Members present on each Day.
Advertisements Regulation	A.	1	38
Limited Partnerships	A.	1	32
Notification of Births	A.	1	35
Municipal Elections	A.	1	24
Public Rights of Way (No. 2)	A.	1	24
Limited Partnerships (Re-committed)	A.	1	20
Married Women's Property	A.	1	26
Injured Animals Act (1894) Amendment	A.	1	25
Incest	A.		
Leeds (South Parade Chapel) Charity	A.	1	27
Kingswood (Whitefield Tabernacle Schoolroom, &c.) Charity.	A.		
Longston (Caroline Street Chapel) Charity	A.		
Board of Education Scheme (Holme Trust Estates Educational) Confirmation.	A.		
Public Health	A.	1	22
Petty Sessions Clerks (Ireland)	A.	1	20
Public Health (Re-committed)	A.	1	42
*Butter and Margarine	B.	4	34, 49, 33, 41
*Probation of Offenders (No. 2)	B.	3	35, 39, 38
*Released Persons (Poor Law Relief)	B.	1	27
*Criminal Appeal	B.	3	38, 33, 25
*Evidence, Colonial Statutes	B.	1	24
*Telegraph (Money)	B.		
*Education (Administrative Provisions)	B.	1	41
*Factory and Workshop [Lords]	B.	2	45, 46
*Cabs and Stage Carriages (London)	B.	1	46
*Patents and Designs	C.	6	51, 35, 42, 43 38, 32
*Vaccination	C.	3	36, 37, 36
*Imported Watch-cases	C.	1	21
*Small Holdings and Allotments	C.	15	55, 61, 64, 59, 62, 59, 61, 63, 59, 55, 55, 39, 63, 55, 45
*Employers' Liability (Insurance Companies)	C.	1	35
*Companies [Lords]	C.	3	41, 34, 42
*Small Landholders (Scotland)	Sc.	22	68, 65, 59, 52, 55, 64, 64, 67, 61, 66, 61, 58, 63, 61, 61, 61, 61, 56, 61, 58, 54, 52, 60
*Land Values (Scotland)	Sc.	4	48, 50, 44, 52
*Sheriff Courts (Scotland)	Sc.	3	39, 34, 24

Bills marked * were Government Bills.

House of Commons,
October, 1907.

EVERARD H. DOYLE,
Principal Clerk of Committees.

TABLE I.

A TABLE OF THE TITLES

OF

THE PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS

PASSED IN THE SECOND SESSION OF
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

7 EDWARD 7.—A.D. 1907.

1. AN Act to apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the years ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand nine hundred and seven and one thousand nine hundred and eight. (Consolidated Fund (No. 1).)

2. An Act to provide, during Twelve Months, for the Discipline and Regulation of the Army. (Army (Annual).)

3. An Act to repeal the Law which prohibits the Growing of Tobacco in Ireland. (Irish Tobacco.)

4. An Act to extend the Destructive Insects Act, 1877, to all Pests destructive to Crops, Trees, or Bushes. (Destructive Insects and Pests.)

5. An Act to re-enact with amendments the Injured Animals Act, 1894. (Injured Animals.)

6. An Act to provide for raising further Money for the purpose of the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1906. (Telegraph Money.)

7. An Act to amend the Law relating to the Reservation for His Majesty's pleasure of Bills passed by the Legislatures of the States forming part of the Commonwealth of Australia, and to confirm certain Acts passed by those Legislatures. (Australian States Constitution.)

8. An Act to exempt from Assay Foreign Watch-Cases imported into the United Kingdom before the first day of June nineteen hundred and seven. (Assay of Imported Watch-Cases (Existing Stocks Exemption).)

9. An Act to provide for the reorganisation of His Majesty's military forces and for that purpose to authorise the establishment of County Associations, and the raising and maintenance of a Territorial Force, and for amending the Acts relating to the Reserve Forces. (Territorial and Reserve Forces.)

10. An Act to repeal section fifty-seven of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and part of section seven of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, relating to the Employment of Women and Children. (Employment of Women.)

11. An Act to make further provision with respect to the sums to be paid by Canada to the several Provinces of the Dominion. (British North America.)

12. An Act to amend the Matrimonial Causes Acts, 1857 and 1866, by extending the powers of the Court in relation to Maintenance and Alimony, and leave to intervene. (Matrimonial Causes.)

13. An Act to grant certain duties of Customs and Inland Revenue, to alter other duties, and to amend the Law relating to Customs and Inland Revenue and the National Debt, and to make other provisions for the financial arrangements of the year. (Finance.)

14. An Act to make better provision as to the Relief of Persons released from detention in Prisons, Reformatory and Industrial Schools, and Inebriate Reformatories. (Released Persons (Poor Law Relief).)

15. An Act to enable Provisional Orders to be made for regulating Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries. (Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries.)

16. An Act to facilitate the admission in evidence of statutes passed by the Legislatures of British possessions and protectorates, including Cyprus. (Evidence (Colonial Statutes).)

17. An Act to permit the Release on Probation of Offenders in certain cases, and for other matters incidental thereto. (Probation of Offenders.)

18. An Act to amend the Married Women's Property Act, 1882. (Married Women's Property.)

19. An Act to enable portion of a term of imprisonment in Ireland to be remitted as a reward for good conduct. (Prisons (Ireland).)

20. An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the Service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand nine hundred and eight, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament. (Appropriation.)

21. An Act to make further provision with respect to the Manufacture, Importation, and Sale of Butter and Margarine and similar Substances. (Butter and Margarine.)

22. An Act to Amend the Law relating to Clerks of Petty Sessions in Ireland. (Petty Sessions Clerk (Ireland) Amendment.)

23. An Act to establish a Court of Criminal Appeal and to amend the Law relating to Appeals in Criminal Cases. (Criminal Appeal.)

24. An Act to establish Limited Partnerships. (Limited Partnerships.)

25. An Act for amending the Law relating to the Administration of Oaths for the purpose of Proceedings in Prize Courts. (Commissioners for Oaths (Prize Proceedings).)

26. An Act to amend the Law with respect to Customs duties in the Isle of Man. (Isle of Man (Customs).)

27. An Act to authorise Local Authorities to make Bye-laws respecting the Exhibition of Advertisements. (Advertisements Regulation.)

28. An Act to amend the Law relating to Patents and Designs. (Patents and Designs (Amendments).)

29. An Act to consolidate the enactments relating to Patents for Inventions and the Registration and Designs and certain enactments relating to Trade Marks. (Patents and Designs.)

30. An Act to amend sections fifty-seven, fifty-eight, and fifty-nine of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, relating to the prevention of infectious diseases. (Public Health (Scotland) Amendment.)

31. An Act to substitute a Statutory Declaration for the Certificate required under section two of the Vaccination Act, 1898, of Conscientious Objection. (Vaccination.)

32. An Act to enable regulations to be made for the prevention of danger arising to public health from the importation, preparation, storage, and distribution of articles of food. (Public Health (Regulations as to Food).)

33. An Act to amend the Law relating to the capacity of Women to be elected and act as Members of County or Borough Councils. (Qualifications of Women (County and Borough Councils).)

34. An Act to continue various Expiring Laws. (Expiring Laws Continuance.)

35. An Act to amend the Law as to the Council of India. (Council of India.)

36. An Act to grant Money for the purpose of certain Local Loans out of the Local Loans Fund, and for other purposes relating to Local Loans. (Public Works Loans.)

37. An Act to authorise the Treasury to guarantee the payment of a Loan to be raised by the Colony of the Transvaal. (Transvaal Loan (Guarantee).)

38. An Act to make provision with respect to the Disposal of Mining Rights under section thirteen of the Irish Land Act, 1903, and to amend section fifty-four of that Act. (Irish Land.)

39. An Act to amend the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, with respect to Laundries, and to extend that Act to certain Institutions and to provide for the inspection of certain premises. (Factory and Workshop.)

40. An Act to provide for the early Notification of Births. (Notification of Births.)

41. An Act to regulate Whale Fisheries in Scotland. (Whale Fisheries (Scotland).)

42. An Act to provide for the payment to the Fishery Board for Scotland of the penalties or other moneys recovered in respect of illegal sea fishing in Scotland. (Sea Fisheries (Scotland) Application of Penalties.)

43. An Act to make provision for the better administration by the Central and Local Authorities in England and Wales of the enactments relating to Education. (Education (Administrative Provisions).)

44. An Act to provide for the Abolition of two Judgeships of the High Court in Ireland, and to reduce the Salary of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and for other purposes connected therewith. (Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland).)

45. An Act to render compulsory the carrying of Lights by Vehicles at Night. (Lights on Vehicles.)

46. An Act to apply the provisions of the Life Assurance Companies Acts, 1870 to 1872, to companies carrying on the business of insuring Employers against liability to pay compensation or damages to workmen in their Employment. (Employers' Liability Insurance Companies.)

47. An Act to amend the Law relating to Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister. (Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage.)

48. An Act to amend the Law relating to the capacity of Women to be elected and act as Members of County or Town Councils in Scotland. (Qualification of Women (County and Town Councils) (Scotland).)

49. An Act to amend the Law with respect to Vaccination in Scotland by authorising a statutory declaration of conscientious objection. (Vaccination (Scotland).)

50. An Act to amend the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900. (Companies.)

51. An Act to regulate and amend the Laws and practice relating to the civil procedure in Sheriff Courts in Scotland, and for other purposes. (Sheriff Courts (Scotland).)

52. An Act to amend section seventy-eight of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, with respect to the deduction of the space occupied by propelling power in ascertaining the tonnage of a ship. (Merchant Shipping.)

53. An Act to amend the Public Health Acts. (Public Health Acts Amendment.)

54. An Act to amend the Law with respect to Small Holdings and Allotments. (Small Holdings and Allotments.)

55. An Act to amend the Law relating to Cabs and Stage Carriages in London. (London Cab and Stage Carriage.)

56. An Act to facilitate the provisions of Land for certain Evicted Tenants in Ireland and for other purposes connected therewith, and to make provision with respect to the tenure of office by the Estates Commissioners. (Evicted Tenants (Ireland).)

TABLE II.

A TABLE OF THE TITLES

OF

THE LOCAL AND PRIVATE ACTS

INCLUDING

THE PUBLIC ACTS OF A LOCAL CHARACTER

PASSED DURING THE SESSION, ARRANGED ACCORDING TO CHAPTER.

7 EDWARD VII.—A.D. 1907.

LOCAL ACTS.

The Titles to which the Letter **P** *is prefixed are Public Acts of a Local Character.*

ROYAL ASSENT, 29th April 1907.

P. i. AN Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation). (Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation.)

ii. An Act to make provision with reference to the substitution of a memorandum and articles of association for the existing constitution and regulations of the Royal Insurance Company and for extending its objects and to repeal in part the Royal Insurance Company's Act 1891 and for other purposes. (Royal Insurance Company's.)

ROYAL ASSENT, 4th July 1907.

iii. An Act to extend the time for the compulsory purchase of lands for and completion of tramways and other works authorised by the West Riding Tramways Act 1904. (West Riding Tramways.)

iv. An Act to extend the jurisdiction of the Company of Proprietors of the Lower Navigation of the River Medway and for other purposes. (Medway Lower Navigation.)

v. An act to remove the restrictions in respect of sulphur compounds (other than sulphuretted hydrogen) now imposed upon certain gas companies. (Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions).)

vi. An Act for conferring further powers upon the Basingstoke Gas Company. (Basingstoke Gas.)

vii. An Act for conferring further powers upon the Falmouth Gas Company. (Falmouth Gas.)

viii. An Act to rearrange and increase the capital of and to alter and extend the memorandum of association and the objects and powers of the Staveley Coal and Iron Company Limited and for other purposes. (Staveley Coal and Iron Company Limited.)

ix. An Act to extend the time for the completion of the authorised pier and works of the Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier Company and for other purposes. (Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier.)

x. An Act for conferring further powers upon the North East London Railway Company with respect to their undertaking and for other purposes. (North East London Railway.)

xi. An Act to amend the provisions of the London and North Western Railway Act 1854 with respect to Superannuation Fund. (London and North Western Railway (Superannuation Fund).)

xii. An Act for the abandonment of the Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway. (Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment).)

xiii. An Act to provide for an increase of the share capital of Borax Consolidated Limited and for the conversion of the ordinary shares of the Company into preferred ordinary shares and deferred ordinary shares and for other purposes. (Borax Consolidated Limited.)

xiv. An Act to confer further powers on the Folkestone Sandgate and Hythe Tramways Company for widening and altering roads and acquiring lands and for other purposes. (Folkestone Sandgate and Hythe Tramways.)

xv. An Act to authorise the working of mines and minerals under and adjacent to the portion of the Bridgewater Canal extending from Monton Bridge in the county of Lancaster to Leigh in the same county and for other purposes. (Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal).)

xvi. An Act to confer further powers on the West Yorkshire Tramways Company for widening and altering roads and acquiring lands and for other purposes. (West Yorkshire Tramways.)

xvii. An Act to authorise the Mitcham and Wimbledon District Gaslight Company to construct new works to raise additional capital to convert their existing capital and for other purposes. (Mitcham and Wimbledon Gas.)

xviii. An Act to empower the Corporation of Birmingham to acquire further lands for the purposes of the Military Lands Acts 1892 to 1903 and for other purposes. (Birmingham Corporation.)

xix. An Act to confer further powers upon the Newquay and District Water Company to extend their limits for the supply of water to authorise the construction of works and the raising of money and for other purposes. (Newquay and District Water.)

xx. An Act to authorise the mayor aldermen and burgesses of the county borough of Middlesbrough to construct a transporter bridge across the River Tees and to discontinue the Middlesbrough and Port Clarence Ferry and for other purposes. (Middlesbrough Corporation (Transporter Bridge).)

xxi. An Act to alter and enlarge the provisions of the Charters incorporating the Royal Bank of Scotland and of an Act amending the same. (Royal Bank of Scotland.)

xxii. An Act to vary the style or qualification of licentiates of the Society of Apothecaries of London and for other purposes. (Apothecaries.)

xxiii. An Act for extending the limits of supply of the Maidstone Gas Company and for other purposes. (Maidstone Gas.)

xxiv. An Act to empower the lord mayor aldermen and burgesses of the city of Bristol to raise further moneys for completion of authorised dock works and for other purposes. (Bristol Corporation.)

xxv. An Act to empower the mayor aldermen and burgesses of the county borough of Burnley to retain sell or otherwise dispose of surplus lands and for other purposes. (Burnley Corporation.)

xxvi. An Act for conferring further powers on the Tyne Improvement Commissioners and for amending certain of the Tyne Improvement Acts 1850 to 1902 and for other purposes. (Tyne Improvement.)

xxvii. An Act to define and sanction the existing water undertaking of the urban district council of Keswick in the county of Cumberland to authorise the construction of new works to define the limits for the supply of water and for other purposes. (Keswick Urban District Council (Water).)

xxviii. An Act to authorise the Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway Company to acquire additional lands and to raise further money and for other purposes. (Brecon and Merthyr Railway.)

xxix. An Act to enable the Port Talbot Railway and Docks Company to raise additional capital. (Port Talbot Railway and Docks.)

xxx. An Act to empower the Manchester Ship Canal Company to acquire lands and to confer upon that Company further powers in relation to the supply of water in their canal and for other purposes. (Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers).)

xxxi. An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Shanklin Gas Company and other purposes. (Shanklin Gas.)

xxxii. An Act to extend the time for the compulsory purchase of lands and for the completion of works for the South Eastern and London Chatham and Dover Railways and to authorise the raising of additional capital by the South Eastern Railway Company. (South Eastern and London Chatham and Dover Railways.)

xxxiii. An Act to authorise the Metropolitan Railway Company to establish and regulate a pension fund and for other purposes. (Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund).)

xxxiv. An Act to regulate and facilitate the increase of the capital of the Simon-Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company Limited and for other purposes. (Simon-Carves Bye-Product Coke Oven Construction and Working Company Limited.)

xxxv. An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Grays and Tilbury Gas Company. (Grays and Tilbury Gas.)

xxxvi. An Act to incorporate the Brockenhurst Gas Company and to enable that Company to supply with gas the parish of Brockenhurst in the county of Southampton. (Brockenhurst Gas.)

xxxvii. An Act to incorporate and confer powers upon the Boston Spa Gas Company. (Boston Spa Gas.)

xxxviii. An Act for rendering valid certain Letters Patent granted to Richard Harrison for an invention for improvements in or connected with elastic wheels applicable to motor and other vehicles. (Harrison's Patent.)

xxxix. An Act to authorise the urban district council of St. Neot's to acquire the undertaking of the St. Neot's Water Company and to supply water throughout their district and the neighbourhood thereof and for other purposes. (St. Neot's Urban District Council.)

xl. An Act for tranferring to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners the endowments of the rectory of Sutton Coldfield in the county of Warwick and for providing for the re-endowment of the said rectory and for the application of the income and capital of the transferred endowments and for other ecclesiastical purposes. (Sutton Coldfield Rectory.)

xli. An Act for amending certain provisions of the Birmingham Corporation Water Acts in regard to repayment of moneys borrowed for the purposes of those Acts and for other purposes. (Birmingham Corporation Water.)

xlii. An Act to amend the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Acts of 1866 and 1900 to confer further powers upon the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Commissioners and for other purposes. (Great Yarmouth Port and Haven.)

xliii. An Act to confer further powers on the Taff Vale Railway Company and for other purposes. (Taff Vale Railway.)

xliv. An Act to empower the General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation Limited to issue insurance coupons and for other purposes. (General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation.)

xlv. An Act to make provision with reference to claims by policy holders and other persons against other companies or persons for compensation or payment in respect of injuries. (Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Limited.)

P. xlvi. An Act to confirm a Scheme made under the London Government Act 1899 relating to the Southwark Borough Market. (London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market) Confirmation.)

P. xlvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State under the Provisional Order (Marriages) Act 1905. (Provisional Order (Marriages) Confirmation.)

P. xlviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State under the Metropolitan Police Act 1886 relating to Lands in the Metropolitan Boroughs of Paddington and Battersea and in the Parish of Chipping Barnet. (Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Confirmation.)

P. xlix. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to the Oregon Mortgage Company Limited. (Oregon Mortgage Company Limited Order Confirmation.)

P. l. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act 1888 containing the Schedule of Maximum Tolls and Charges applicable to the New Junction Canal of the Undertakers of the Aire and Calder Navigation. (Canal Tolls and Charges (New Junction Canal) Order Confirmation.)

ROYAL ASSENT, 26th July 1907.

P. li. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Land Drainage Act 1861 in the matter of certain lands in the Parish of Keadby in the County of Lincoln (Parts of Lindsey). (Land Drainage Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 1.).)

P. lii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Land Drainage Act 1861 in the matter of the Oulton Carlton, etc., Marshes in the Parishes of Oulton Carlton Colville and Barnby in the County of Suffolk. (Land Drainage Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 2).)

P. liii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to Dublin and Fermoy. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

P. liv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Aston Manor (Extension to Erdington) Chesham (Amendment) Hipperholme (Amendment) Lytham Newark (Amendment) Penrith (Amendment) Pontefract and Stockport (Amendment). (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

P. lv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to the rural district of Cork. (Electric Lighting Order Confirmation (No. 2).)

P. lvi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 the Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act 1890 and the Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act 1902 relating to the Burgh of Arbroath. (Electric Lighting Order Confirmation (No. 4.).)

P. lvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Minehead and Dunster Rhymney Valley (Gelligaer Mynyddislwyn and Bedwellty) and St. Albans and District. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 5).)

P. lviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act 1892 relating to Ladybank Sewerage Drainage and Water. (Ladybank Sewerage Drainage and Water Order Confirmation.)

P. lix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Education under the Education Acts 1870 to 1903 to enable the Councils of the Administrative County of Surrey and County Boroughs of Birkenhead and Southport to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts. (Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Surrey, etc.).)

P. lx. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Education under the Education Acts 1870 to 1903 to enable the London County Council to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts. (Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London No. 2).)

P. lxi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to Clyde Navigation. (Clyde Navigation Orders Confirmation.)

P. lxii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to Dundee Corporation. (Dundee Corporation Order Confimation.)

P. lxiii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act 1870 relating to Dorking Water Freshwater Gas New Tredegar Gas and Water Skegness Gas and Woking District Gas. Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

P. lxiv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Levenhall Extension). Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Levenhall Extension) Order Confirmation.)

lxv. An Act to confer further powers upon the Southend Waterworks Company to extend their limits for the supply of water to authorise the transfer to them of the water undertakings of the urban district council of Leigh-on-Sea and the rural district council of Billericay to raise additional capital and for other purposes. (Southend Waterworks.)

lxvi. An Act to incorporate the Burnham (Somerset) Pier Company and to transfer to the Company the powers of the Burnham (Somerset) Pier Order 1906 to authorise the Barry Railway Company to subscribe to the capital of the Company and for other purposes. Burnham (Somerset) Pier.)

lxvii. An Act to authorise the Hull and Barnsley Railway Company to construct a pier and railways at Hull and to purchase additional lands and for other purposes. (Hull and Barnsley Railway.)

lxviii. An Act to authorise the Southport Birkdale and West Lancashire Water Board to purchase certain waterworks from the Skelmersdale Urban District Council and for other purposes. (Southport Birkdale and West Lancashire Water Board.)

lxix. An Act to confer further powers upon the mayor aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Brighouse in regard to their electricity undertaking and to make further provision in regard to the health local Government and improvement of the borough and for other purposes. (Brighouse Corporation.)

lxx. An Act to incorporate the President and Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London to provide for the management of the Fund and for other purposes. (King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.)

lxxi. An Act to extend the time limited by the Heywood and Middleton Water Board Act 1901 for the construction of waterworks to confer further powers upon the Heywood and Middleton Water Board with respect to their water undertaking and for other purposes. (Heywood and Middleton Water Board.)

lxxii. An Act to extend the time limited by the London United Tramways Act 1901 the London United Tramways Act 1902 and the London United Tramways Act 1904 for the construction of tramways and the acquisition of lands. (London United Tramways.)

lxxiii. An Act to confer further powers upon the Pontypridd Urban District Council in regard to the appropriation and use of lands to make further provision in regard to their gas undertaking and for other purposes. (Pontypridd Urban District Council.)

lxxiv. An Act to extend the limits of supply of the Wisbech Waterworks Company and to confer further powers upon that Company. (Wisbech Water.)

lxxv. An Act to authorise the union of the Methodist New Connexion the Bible Christians and the United Methodist Free Churches under the name of "The United Methodist Church" to deal with real and personal property belonging to the said churches or denominations to provide for the vesting of the said property in trust for the United Church so formed and for the assimilation of the trusts thereof and for other purposes. (United Methodist Church.)

lxxvi. An Act to revive and extend the powers for the purchase of lands and to extend the time limited for the completion of the railway and works authorised by the Great Northern and City Railway Act 1902 and for other purposes. (Great Northern and City Railway.)

lxxvii. An Act to authorise the mayor aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Rawtenstall to construct and work tramways and to provide and work omnibuses to confer further powers upon them in relation to their electricity and markets undertakings to authorise them to construct a street work and to acquire lands and to make further provision with regard to the health local government and improvement of the borough of Rawtenstall and for other purposes. (Rawtenstall Corporation.)

lxxviii. An Act to authorise the construction of new works and taking of lands by the Great Central Railway Company to sanction and confirm agreements between the Great Central Railway Company and the Blyton and Frodingham Light Railway and North Lindsey Light Railways Companies and to authorise the construction of new railways and wharves in the county of Lincoln by the North Lindsey Light Railways Company to authorise the construction of new railways by the Great Central Railway Company and the Great Northern Railway Company for the purposes of the West Riding and Grimsby Railways to make further provision with respect to the Great Western and Great Central Joint Railways and for other purposes. (Great Central Railway.)

lxxix. An Act to confer further powers upon the mayor aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Devonport with reference to their water undertaking and their electrical undertaking to make further and better provision with regard to the improvement health local government and finance of the said borough and for other purposes. (Devonport Corporation.)

lxxx. An Act to consolidate with Amendments and Additions the Provisions of the Acts relating to the Tees Valley Water Board. (Tees Valley Water (Consolidation).)

lxxxi. An Act to empower the Corporation of Leeds to construct additional waterworks and to acquire lands and for other purposes. (Leeds Corporation.)

lxxxii. An Act to transfer the powers of the Kendal Fell Trustees to the mayor aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Kendal to unite the townships within the borough into one parish to abolish certain differential rating and for other purposes. (Kendal Corporation.)

lxxxiii. An Act to confer further powers on the Central London Railway Company and for other purposes. (Central London Railway.)

lxxxiv. An Act to authorise the construction of further waterworks and the taking of water from the River Bure for the purpose of affording increased supplies of water by the Great Yarmouth Waterworks Company and the Lowestoft Water and Gas Company to confer further powers upon those Companies with reference to their respective undertakings and for other purposes. (Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas.)

lxxxv. An Act for incorporating and conferring powers upon the Bude Gas Company. (Bude Gas.)

lxxxvi. An Act to confer further powers upon the urban district council of King's Norton and Northfield with respect to tramways and electric lighting and to make further and better provision for the good government of the said district and for other purposes. (King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council.)

lxxxvii. An Act for conferring further powers upon the London and North Western Railway Company in relation to their own undertaking and upon that Company in conjunction with the Great Western Railway Company in relation to their joint undertaking for enabling the Company to work certain of their railways by electrical power and for other purposes. (London and North Western Railway.)

lxxxviii. An Act to authorise the urban District council of Penrith to construct additional waterworks to extend the limits of the Council for the supply of gas to enlarge the powers of the Council in regard to the supply of water and gas to confer further powers on the Council in regard to markets and for the utilisation of lands allotted under an Enclosure Award and to make further and better provision with regard to the improvement health local government and finance of the district and for other purposes. (Penrith Urban District Council.)

lxxxix. An Act to confer further powers upon the Worthing Gas Light and Coke Company. (Worthing Gas.)

xc. An Act to enable the Alton Military Hospital to be utilised for the purposes of a Cripples' Home and College. (Alton Military Hospital.)

xci. An Act for transferring to the Electric Supply Corporation Limited certain undertakings authorised under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 and for other purposes. (Electric Supply Corporation Limited.)

ROYAL ASSENT, 2nd August 1907.

xcii. An Act to confer further powers on the Ashton-under-Lyne Stalybridge and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Joint Committee. (Ashton-under-Lyne Stalybridge and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks.)

xciii. An Act to authorise the Corporation of the City of Sheffield to construct additional tramways and to execute certain street widenings to confer on the Corporation further powers with respect to their water undertaking their markets undertaking and their electrical undertaking to make further provisions with respect to the regulation of traffic and sanitary matters in the City to amend divers provisions of the local Acts in force in the City and for other purposes. (Sheffield Corporation.)

xciv. An Act to provide for the granting of superannuation allowances to the Officers and Servants of the Council of the Royal Borough of Kensington and for other purposes. (Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation).)

xcv. An Act to authorise the Corporation of Tynemouth to construct additional works to borrow additional moneys and for other purposes. (Tynemouth Corporation (Water).)

xcvi. An Act for conferring powers on the Imperial Tramways Company Limited for constructing a tramway and widening and altering roads in the North Riding of the County of York and for other purposes. (Middlesbrough Stockton-on-Tees and Thornaby Tramways.)

xcvii. An Act to dissolve the Humber Conservancy Commissioners and the Humber Pilotage Commissioners and to incorporate the Humber Conservancy Board and to confer upon that Board the powers of the Humber Conservancy Commissioners and of the Humber Pilotage Commissioners certain powers of the Hull Trinity House the power to levy dues and other powers and for other purposes. (Humber Conservancy.)

xcviii. An Act to confer further powers upon the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company and for other purposes. (North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply.)

xcix. An Act to confirm an Agreement relating to the supply of electricity in the borough of Richmond (Surrey) and for other purposes. (Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply.)

c. An Act to make further provision in regard to the electricity undertaking of the mayor aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Sunderland and the health local government and improvement of the borough and for other purposes. (Sunderland Corporation.)

ci. An Act to confer further powers on the mayor aldermen and citizens of the city of Coventry in relation to their water undertaking to authorise the supply to them of water by the lord mayor aldermen and citizens of the city of Birmingham to extend the area of supply under the Coventry Electric Lighting Order 1891 and for other purposes. (Coventry Corporation.)

cii. An Act to confer further powers upon the lord mayor aldermen and citizens of the city of Manchester with reference to the construction of tramways and street widenings and for other purposes. (Manchester Corporation Tramways.)

ciii. An Act to empower the North British Railway Company to construct a new dock a railway and other works at Methil to confer further powers on the North British Railway Company with reference to their undertaking and upon that Company the Caledonian Railway Company and the Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Railway Company with reference to undertakings in which those Companies are interested to authorise the Burnt-island Harbour Commissioners to lease lands for graving dock and for other purposes. (North British Railway.)

civ. An Act to extend the time for the sale of certain lands reclaimed by the Tees Conservancy Commissioners to enable the Commissioners to establish a superannuation fund and for other purposes. (Tees Conservancy.)

cv. An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Annfield Plain and District Gas Company and for other purposes. (Annfield Plain and District Gas.)

cvi. An Act to make further provision in regard to the local government and improvement of the city of Kingston-upon-Hull and for other purposes. (Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation.)

cvii. An Act to empower the South Wales Mineral Railway Company to construct a deviation railway to abandon part of their existing railway to raise further money and for other purposes. (South Wales Mineral Railway.)

P. cviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the rural district of Ballycastle the Bangor and Newtownards Joint Hospital District and the urban district of Dalkey. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

P. cix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the rural districts of Rathdown (No. 1) Monaghan Balrothery and Belfast. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

P. cx. An Act to confirm a Scheme approved and certified by the Board of Education under the Charitable Trust Acts 1853 relating to the Hulme Trust Estates (Educational). (Board of Education Scheme (Hulme Trust Estates Educational) Confirmation.)

P. cxi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to Aberdeen Corporation. (Aberdeen Corporation Order Confirmation.)

P. cxii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Education under the Education Acts 1870 to 1903 to enable the London County Council to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts. (Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation London No. 1).)

P. cxiii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act 1870 relating to Herts and Essex Water Mid-Kent Water and Twyford (Berks) Gas. (Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2).

P. cxiv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Castleford Egham Formby Grimsby (Extension) Liversedge Maldens and Coombe Mansfield (Extension to Mansfield Woodhouse) Paignton Selby and Stoke-upon-Trent (Extension). Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

P. cxv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act 1861 relating to Tralee and Fenit and Wicklow. (Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

P. cxvi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act 1861 relating to Southwold. (Pier and Harbour Order Confirmation (No. 4).)

P. cxvii. An Act to confine certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act 1870 relating to Audenshaw Urban District Council Tramway Huddersfield Corporation Tramway Leeds Corporation Tramways Taunton Tramways (Extension) and West Ham Corporation Tramways. (Tramways Order Confirmation.)

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P. cxviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act 1861 relating to Pwllheli. (Pier and Harbour Order Confirmation (No. 1).)

P. cxix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act 1861 relating to Fleetwood Portsmouth and Sennen. (Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

P. cxx. An Act to confirm a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners for the management of the Charity consisting of the Particular or Calvinistic Baptist Chapel in South Parade in the city of Leeds. (Leeds Particular or Calvinistic Baptist Chapel in South Parade Scheme Confirmation.)

P. cxxi. An Act to confirm a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners for the management of the Charity consisting of the Whitfield Tabernacle Schoolroom and trust property in the parish of Kingswood in the county of Gloucester. (Kingswood Whitfield Tabernacle Scheme Confirmation.)

P. cxxii. An Act to confirm a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners for the management of the Charity consisting of the Congregational Chapel in Caroline Street in the borough of Longton in the county of Stafford. (Longton Congregational Chapel in Caroline Street Scheme Confirmation.)

cxxiii. An Act to confer further powers upon the Portishead District Water Company and for other purposes. (Portishead District Water.)

cxxiv. An Act for making railways and piers in the counties of Sligo and Mayo to be called the Collooney Ballina and Belmullet Railways and Piers and for other purposes. (Collooney Ballina and Belmullet Railway and Piers.)

cxxv. An Act to authorise the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company to construct a new railway to widen certain existing railways and to construct other works to acquire additional lands and for other purposes. (Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.)

cxxvi. An Act to authorise the urban district council of Broadstairs and St, Peter's to construct additional waterworks and to confer on the Council further powers in relation to their waterworks undertaking and for other purposes. (Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water.)

cxxvii. An Act to confer further powers on the Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board to make the Bedwellty and Tredegar Urban District Councils constituent authorities and for other purposes (Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board.)

cxxviii. An Act to amend the Acts for appointing a Stipendiary Justice of the Peace for the parish of Merthyr Tydfil and adjoining places to provide for the application of those Acts in the event of the grant of a separate Commission of the Peace for the borough of Merthyr Tydfil and for other purposes. (Merthyr Tydfil Stipendiary Justice.)

cxxix. An Act to incorporate the Selsey Water Company and to enable that Company to supply water in certain parishes in the county of Sussex. (Selsey Water.)

cxxx. An Act to confer additional powers upon the Midland Railway Company and upon that Company and the Great Western Railway Company and upon the South Yorkshire Joint Line Committee and upon the Cheshire Lines Committee for the construction of works and the acquisition of lands to make provision for transferring the Limavady and Dungiven Railway to the Midland Railway Company and to confer powers upon that Company and the Great Central and Hull and Barnsley Railway Companies with respect to certain authorised railways of the Great Central and Hull and Barnsley Railway Companies and for other purposes. (Midland Railway.)

cxxxi. An Act for empowering the Corporation of the county borough of Birkenhead to obtain a supply of water from the Rivers Alwen and Brenig in the county of Denbigh and for other purposes. (Birkenhead Corporation Water.)

ROYAL ASSENT, 21st August 1907.

P. cxxxii. An Act to enable His Majesty's Postmaster-General to acquire lands in London Chester Bournemouth Eastbourne and Southgate for the public service and for other purposes. (Post Office (Sites).)

P. cxxxiii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to Paisley Corporation. (Paisley Corporation Order Confirmation.)

P. cxxxiv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to the Burgh of Leith. (Leith Burgh Order Confirmation.)

cxxxv. An Act to confer further powers on the lord provost magistrates and town council of the city and royal burgh of Aberdeen in connection with their electricity undertaking and for other purposes. (Aberdeen Corporation Electricity.)

cxxxvi. An Act to incorporate and confer powers upon the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. (National Trust.)

cxxxvii. An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Llandrindod Wells Gas Company and for other purposes. (Llandrindod Wells Gas.)

cxxxviii. An Act to regulate the expenditure of money by the London County Council on capital account during the current financial period and the raising of money to meet such expenditure and for other purposes. (London County Council (Money).)

cxxxix. An Act to extend the time for the compulsory purchase of lands for and for the construction of the Neath Pontardawe and Brynaman Railway and for other purposes. (Neath Pontardawe and Brynaman Railway.)

cxl. An Act to provide for the union of the parishes in the City of London into one parish and to make better provision for the local government of the said City and for other purposes. (City of London (Union of Parishes).)

cxli. An Act to authorise the Swansea Harbour Trustees to further extend the west pier of Swansea Harbour and to construct a breakwater on the eastern side of the entrance channel of the said harbour and for other purposes. (Swansea Harbour.)

cxlii. An Act to vest the existing tramways in the city of Oxford in the City of Oxford Electric Tramways Limited and to authorise that Company to remove and reconstruct the same and to construct additional tramways in and adjacent to the city and for other purposes. (Oxford and District Tramways.)

cxliii. An Act to empower the District Committee of the First or Upper District of the County of Renfrew to construct and maintain waterworks and to supply water within their district to authorise the county council of the county of Renfrew to acquire the undertaking of the Busby Water Company and other lands and servitudes for the purposes of such water supply to authorise and require the said county council to levy assessments and to borrow money for such waterworks undertaking and supply to authorise the county council to acquire land for sewage purification works and for other purposes. (Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water.)

cxliv. An Act to empower the London County Council to construct and work new tramways and to alter and reconstruct existing tramways and make street improvements and other works in the county of London and for other purposes. (London County Council (Tramways and Improvements).)

cxlv. An Act to confer further powers on the Colne Valley Water Company for the raising of capital and for other purposes. (Colne Valley Water.)

cxlvi. An Act to authorise the Corporation of the city of Glasgow to construct new tramways and a storm-water overflow to extend the period for the construction of sewage works and the acquisition of properties to make provision with reference to the testing of the illuminating power of the gas supply the stand-by supply of electrical energy the police courts the sale of coal weights and measures the filling up of casual vacancies in the Corporation the meetings of the Corporation the representation of the Corporation in the Convention of Royal Burghs of Scotland the borrowing of further moneys for the tramways and the sewage undertakings of the Corporation and for other purposes. (Glasgow Corporation).

cxlvii. An Act to confer further powers upon the North Staffordshire Railway Company to confirm an agreement for the purchase by that Company of the railway of the Cheadle Railway Company Limited and for other purposes. (North Staffordshire Railway.)

cxlviii. An Act for empowering the urban district council of Armagh to acquire the undertaking of the Armagh Toll Committee for extinguishing the Council's liability to pay an annual road contribution to the Armagh County Council for making further provision for the health and improvement of the district and for other purposes. (Armagh Urban District Council.)

ROYAL ASSENT, 28th August 1907.

P. cxlix. An Act to confirm a Provisiona Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to Dumbarton Burgh and County Tramways. (Dumbarton Burgh and County Tramways Order Confirmation.)

P. cl. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to the Burgh of Dumbarton. (Dumbarton Burgh Order Confirmation.)

P. cli. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Barnsley Neath West Ham and Wood Green. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

P. clii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Birkenhead Lincoln Milford Haven Shipley and Warrington. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

P. cliii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Brumby and Frodingham the Appleby Joint Cemetery District and the Rugby Joint Hospital District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

P. cliv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bath Handforth Liverpool Nantwich Penryn Pontardawe (Rural) Sheffield and the South Staffordshire Joint Small-pox Hospital District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 4).)

P. clv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Chester Chorley Fenton Hanwell Rochford (Rural) Scunthorpe and the Thornton Joint Hospital District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 5).)

P. clvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Dunstable and the Counties of West Suffolk and East Sussex and West Sussex. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 6).)

P. clvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Barnstable Coventry Honiton and Wallasey. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 7).)

P. clviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Chelmsford and Merthyr Tydfil. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 8).)

P. clix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Hertford the Goole Joint Hospital District and the Oakengates and Dawley Joint Water Board. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 9).)

P. clx. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bradford (Yorks) Northampton and Wigan. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 10).)

P. clxi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Evesham Melton Mowbray the Dewsbury Joint Hospital District and the Mid-Sussex Joint Water District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 11).)

P. clxii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Borough of East Ham and Urban Districts of Barking Town and Ilford and the Borough of Sunderland. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 12).)

P. clxiii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Norwich and the Counties of London and Middlesex. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 13).)

P. clxiv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Portsmouth and the Waltham Joint Hospital District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 14).)

P. clxv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Manchester. (Local Government Board relating to Manchester. (Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 15).)

P. clxvi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to the Caledonian Railway. (Caledonian Railway Order Confirmation.)

P. clxvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to Kilmarnock Corporation Water. (Kilmarnock Corporation Water Order Confirmation.)

P. clxviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to the Inverness Royal Academy and Educational Endowments. (Inverness Royal Academy Order Confirmation.)

P. clxix. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to Aberdeen Harbour. (Aberdeen Harbour Order Confirmation.)

P. clxx. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899 relating to Lanarkshire County Council. (Lanarkshire County Council Order Confirmation.)

clxxi. An Act to provide for uniform scales of charges for water applicable throughout the limits of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board and for other purposes. (Metropolitan Water Board (Charges).)

clxxii. An Act to empower the Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Company to raise additional capital for the construction and completion of the dock extension and other works in connection therewith authorised by the Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Acts 1904 and 1906 and for the general purposes of their undertaking. (Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Dock and Railway (Additional Capital etc.).)

clxxiii. An Act to enable the Barry Railway Company to construct new railways and for other purposes. (Barry Railway.)

clxxiv. An Act to empower the Metropolitan Water Board to make waterworks and other works and to acquire lands and for other purposes. (Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers).)

clxxv. An Act to empower the London County Council to execute works and to acquire lands to make provisions for the health and well-being of the inhabitants of the county of London to confer powers upon the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell and for other purposes. (London County Council (General Powers).)

clxxvi. An Act to enable the lord mayor aldermen and citizens of the City of York to acquire the rights of the freemen and others in or in respect of certain lands or strays known as the Micklegate Strays and to make provision for the management thereof and for other purposes. (York (Micklegate Strays).)

PRIVATE ACTS.

NOT PRINTED.

ROYAL ASSENT, 29th April 1907.

An Act to dissolve the marriage of Charles Edward Galwey a Captain in the Royal Irish Regiment with Annie Louise Galwey his now wife and to enable him to marry again and for other purposes. (Galwey's Divorce.)

An Act to dissolve the marriage of Henry Morgan Byrne barrister-at-law with Edith Laura Byrne his now wife and to enable him to marry again and for other purposes. (Byrne's Divorce.)

ROYAL ASSENT, 4th July 1907.

An Act to authorise Raymond Hill Baines to assume and bear the Christain names of Henry Rodd in lieu of the Christain names of Raymond Hill. (Baines Name.)

An Act to remove doubts as to the validity of a certain decree dated thirtieth October one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three of the High Court of Justice (Probate Divorce and Admiralty Division) dissolving the marriage solemnized on the sixteenth day of November one thousand eight hundred and eighty between William Howard Murphy Grimshaw and Mary Evalina Julia Murphy Grimshaw then Mary Evalina Julia Woodward spinster and to confirm the said decree. (Murphy Grimshaw's Divorce (Validation).)

Royal Assent, 26th July 1907.

An Act to dissolve the marriage of Lida Eleanor Purcell FitzGerald with Gerald Purcell FitzGerald her present husband and to enable her to marry again and for other purposes. (FitzGerald's Divorce.)

An Act to dissolve the marriage of Gwenllian Pascoe Killery the wife of St. John Brown Killery a Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps with the said St. John Brown Killery and to enable her to marry again and for other purposes. (Killery's Divorce.)

Royal Assent, 2nd August 1907.

An Act to declare legitimate certain children of Thomas Hamilton Sabine Pasley. (Pasley Children Legitimisation.)

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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, APPOINTED TO MEET
THE TWELFTH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

FOURTEENTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1907.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 26th August, 1907.

PETITIONS.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition against: Of inhabitants of Reading; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Regulations for the training of teachers of domestic subjects, 1907.

HORSE BREEDING.

Eleventh Report of the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding.

CANALS AND WATERWAYS (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Second Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into and report on the canals and inland navigations of the United Kingdom:—Vol. I., Report; Vol. II., Minutes of Evidence and Appendices (Ireland); Vol. III., Minutes of Evidence and Appendices (England and Scotland); Vol. IV., Returns.

HOUSE-LETTING (SCOTLAND).

Report to the Secretary for Scotland of the Departmental Committee on house-letting in Scotland. Volume I., Report.

WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Report on changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in the United Kingdom in 1906; with comparative statistics for 1897–1905.

GAS AND WATER ORDERS (SESSION 1907).

Report by the Board of Trade of their preceedings under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, during the session of 1907.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

(Borough of Widnes).—Order made by the council of the borough of Widnes, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the borough.

(Metropolitan Borough of Hackney).—Order made by the council of the metropolitan borough of Hackney, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the borough.

(Barking Town Urban District).—Order made by the council of the urban district of Barking Town, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the urban district.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1906.

Treasury Warrant, dated 21st August, 1907, modifying for the purposes of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, the Warrant made under Section 1 of the Superannuation Act, 1887, relative to the award of compensation for injury.

PILOTAGE.

Abstract of Returns relating to pilots and pilotage in the United Kingdom (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 221 of Session 1906), as furnished by the various pilotage authorities.

HARWICH HARBOUR.

Abstract of accounts of receipts and expenditure of the Harwich Harbour Conservancy Board from the time of their incorporation down to and inclusive of 31st March, 1907.

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).

Report by the Board of Trade respecting their proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, 56 and 57 Vict., c. 29, during the year ended 27th July, 1907, together with the Appendices thereto.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

RAILWAYS (ACCIDENTS).

Return respecting: Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of Wednesday last), and to be printed. (No. 213.)

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Report from the Select Committee (with the proceedings of the Committee made), and to be printed. (No. 214.)

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order).

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Lord TWEEDMOUTH): My Lords, the first Amendment which stands in my name is to correct a mistake that was made during the Committee stage. It is to reinsert the first provision of Clause 1 of the original Bill, which was omitted in error.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 14, after the word 'passed, to insert the words 'Provided also that when any minister of any church or chapel of the Church of England shall refuse to perform such marriage service between any persons who, but for such refusal, would be entitled to have the same service performed in such church or chapel, such minister may permit any other clergyman in Holy Orders in the Church of England entitled to officiate within the diocese in which such church or chapel is situate, to perform such marriage service in such church or chapel.' "—(*Lord Tweedmouth*).

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY said he had not checked the words, but he presumed they were exactly in the form in which they stood originally, except for the substitution of the word "may" for "shall."

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Yes.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendment ageed to.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: The next Amendments standing in my name are to strike out Amendments which stood in the names of the Duke of Northumberland and Lord Balfour, and to which I provisionally assented in Committee. I only assented with reservation, because they are of a very technical character and involve considerable questions of law. I am not an expert in legal matters, but I have taken the best advice I can, and I am informed that by the Amendments inserted in Committee the institution of proceedings is to be regarded as equivalent to a successful issue of such proceedings. Surely by that a dangerous principle is established. There might be, of course, cases of hardship—for instance, when one of the parties to the union was guilty of conduct for which a divorce would be granted if a valid marriage could be proved. Considerable hardship might also be inflicted on innocent persons if the mere fact that proceedings had been instituted were to be considered sufficient to absolve the party instituting them from all further civil obligation and responsibility towards the partner with whom the union had been contracted. I hope noble Lords will not press for those words to be retained.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 16, to leave out from the word 'annulled' to the word 'or' in line 17 and in line 21, to leave out from the word 'annulled' to the word 'or' in line 22."—(*Lord Tweedmouth*).

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND said he did not know that it was worth while pressing the matter, but he could not agree with the noble Lord. It seemed to him that the case mentioned was a totally different one from that which was before them, because in this case they were dealing with that which had hitherto been no marriage. He could not see the justice of by *ex post facto* legislation putting persons in a position in the middle of a suit which they were not in before. But he would not press for the retention of the words in question.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said the Amendment standing in his name to Clause 2 was fully argued in Committee, and he did not propose to repeat the speech he then made. The noble Lord in charge of the Bill promised to consider the matter and he (Lord Balfour) subsequently understood from private communication that the Amendment would be agreed to, but he was now informed that it would not. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 25, after the word 'contingent,' to add the words 'or presumptive.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: As I said at the previous stage, my right hon. friend Mr. Haldane was quite clear about this question when it was raised in the House of Commons. He thought the word "presumptive" unnecessary; indeed that it would cause a considerable amount of doubt. I have had a further legal opinion on the subject, and I am informed that the word "presumptive" has no legal meaning which is not covered by the words "expectancy" and "contingent," which already form part of the clause. The insertion of the word, therefore, could do no good and might lead to misconception and prove harmful.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD COURTNEY OF PENWITH moved to omit Clause 4, which was inserted in Committee at the instance of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and provided that nothing in the Bill should relieve a clergyman of the Church of England from any ecclesiastical censure to which he would have been liable if the Bill did not pass, by reason of his having married his deceased wife's sister. He said it was reasonable to assume that this Bill would now become law and that henceforth marriages which had hitherto been illegal would be allowable. The conscience of the nation insisted that what some still might regard as sinful unions should not be so treated, at all events so far as the law of the land was concerned. The most rev. Primate submitted in Committee that the Church of England should be left outside the Bill, but their Lordships refused to accede to that request. He submitted, with the greatest respect to the most rev. Primate, that in the conclusion at which their Lordships arrived they were acting in the best interests of the Church as a body, and that the suggestion of the most rev. Primate would have been prejudicial to the interests which his Grace had most dearly at heart. It might have been possible to have left the Church out of the Bill, but it would have been at the serious and grave risk of leaving the nation out of the Church. If the Church insisted on prescribing rules of morality and conduct which the conscience of the nation rejected, a painful struggle must follow, and it would ultimately end by the Church being left through the secession of the nation from its fold. Therefore in refusing to accept the most rev. Primate's Amendment, to the effect that any marriage of this kind solemnised by a clergyman of the Church of England in a church of the Church of England should have no effect at law their Lordships had rejected a proposal which would have been hostile to the true interests of the Church. If this clause stood, its curious effect would be that a layman might be married to his deceased wife's sister without any censure being passed upon him, but although a clergyman might be married to a deceased wife's sister—for there was no invalidation of the marriage—he would be liable to whatever penalty was involved in the ecclesiastical censure. He submitted that this was really treating the clergy with very slight justice. Parliament ought not to discriminate in this way between clergy and laity. He did not know what the ecclesiastical censure would involve. If it was a very slight matter, then it would be very impolitic to censure that which they could not nullify, prohibit, or prevent; but, if it was a very grave affair, then the clause if allowed to remain in the Bill would constitute a very grave injustice to a clergyman who might lawfully contract such a marriage. He did not suppose that for some time, at any rate, the number of clergymen who would marry their deceased wives' sisters would be numerous, for there would be plenty of influences to prevent any tendency towards such a union. The silent boycot of his brethren, and possibly the still more effective boycot which the wives of neighbouring clergy might inflict on the woman he proposed to marry, were strong and powerful influences which for many years, at any rate, would prevent any such marriages among the clergy. But if the man did marry, if the woman did undertake from the highest motives to face the social censure thus possibly involved, why should the ecclesiastical censure be reserved by their Lordships as something which could be added? If this clause stood, he believed it would be quite possible for a clergyman who had contracted one of these marriages to be deprived of his living. Were their Lordships prepared to say that a clergyman in Holy Orders of the Church of England who entered into a marriage which Parliament had declared to be a legal one, and which might be celebrated in the Church of England by a clergyman of the Church of England, should be subject to this severe penalty? He suggested that this was a real injustice. He pleaded in the highest sense that the liberty of the individual in matters of this kind should be respected, and protested against the grave injustice and the cruelty which might result if Clause 4 were allowed to remain in the Bill, not only to a clergyman but to the woman he married with the sanction of the law. The cases would be extremely rare. Why not let them alone? He pleaded for liberty to a clergyman, although he might for a time be acting contrary to the opinion of the majority of his colleagues. To complete the scheme of the Bill approved by the House, it was necessary that it should have general application, and, therefore, he asked their Lordships to reject this clause as they had rejected the first proposal of the most rev. Primate.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 4."—(*Lord Courtney of Penwith*).

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: For two special reasons I would ask my noble friend not to press his Amendment. The first is a personal one. When I undertook the charge of this Bill I entered, after consultation with my colleagues and with the most rev. Primate, into an honourable understanding to support this Amendment proposed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It would be a breach of good understanding for me now to take any other step than to ask your Lordships to reject this Amendment. My noble friend does not altogether comprehend what the effect of his Amendment would be. If it were carried it would involve interference with the discipline of the Church over its own servants. Lord Courtney seemed to think there would be some incapacity imposed upon clergymen as citizens, but the clause will have no such effect. It will leave the individual clergyman with other citizens absolute freedom to enter into this marriage with the consent of the law and ensuring the legitimacy of his children. But the clergyman has, as such, certain obligations which do not fall on the laity, and the Amendment of the most rev. Primate only deals with the relations between the clergyman and the ecclesiastical authorities and the obligations undertaken by the ordination vows. The position of the clergyman, therefore, differs from that of the ordinary layman; it bears some analogy to that of the priest in the Roman Catholic Church, who by his ordination vows undertakes that he will not enter into matrimony. It seems to me that a clergyman of the Church of England when he takes the vows of the Church enters into a very great obligation to obey the laws of the Church. Then my noble friend asked what the ecclesiastical censure means. Censure is simply the sentence of the Ecclesiastical Court; that is all that censure means in a legal way, so far as it refers to an Ecclesiastical Court. I therefore press your Lordships not to accept Lord Courtney's Amendment, first, because it would certainly put me personally into a very awkward position; and, secondly, because I think that the English clergyman, whilst he keeps the full liberties of citizenship with regard to this marriage, is bound to consider the obligations entered into in his ordination.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I now have pleasure in moving the Third Reading of this Bill, and in doing so I desire to thank the House for the consideration shown me in my conduct of the measure. There are many of your Lordships who do not approve of the Bill and to whom it is something of an offence that we should pass it, but to both supporters and opponents my thanks are due for the assistance I have received in the later stages. There is a witty French saying, *La sauce fait passer le poisson*, and although the dish may be rather high flavoured to the palates of some of your Lordships I hope that the sauce with which it is served is pleasant enough to conciliate your taste and leave digestion unimpaired. After long delay I am glad to think that a subject that has been the cause of a great deal of trouble in the country and the source of much injustice will be finally disposed of, and in passing this Bill I am confident your Lordships will be doing a good service to the people of the country.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3a."—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: My Lords, I am sorry that I cannot agree with the tenor of the speech which the noble Lord has just delivered. I should be sorry to differ from the personal tribute which he paid to those who supported him, or reject with ingratitude the kindly words which he said regarding those who are opposed to this proposal. But, so far as I am concerned —and I believe that in this matter I speak, at any rate, for some others in this House—I feel keenly the impolicy and the injustice of the Bill which we are now asked to read a third time, and I propose to make a final protest against it by moving that it be read a third time this day three months. It is a commonplace between us—at least it was the other day—that there was hardly any possibility of bringing forward new arguments on this subject. The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack went so far as to say that every argument upon both sides was threadbare. If that is the case, it seems to me a most astounding thing that we should have been given by the noble Lord in charge of the Bill a travesty of the argument founded on the 18th chapter of the book of Leviticus. That argument may not go very far with some of your Lordships, and I am the last to say it is absolutely conclusive; but if the arguments on both sides are threadbare I think we ought, at any rate, to have had a little more evidence that the First Lord of the Admiralty had been made aware of what that part of the argument really is, and that he had given it an intelligent consideration. He presented the argument as if it depended entirely on the interpretation of one verse in that chapter, and he exhibited some ingenuity in proving that there were several translations of that passage. That is not the argument from the 18th chapter of Leviticus, as I understand it. The whole point of that chapter is that in it the Law Giver is laying down a code and giving the relationships which are prohibited; some are relations of consanguinity and some of affinity, and those of affinity which are particularly specified are more in number than those of consanguinity. There are twelve distinct relationships between whom marriage is forbidden, and of them seven are of affinity and only five of consanguinity. That is the argument, as I have always been taught to regard it, from that passage in scripture. It is the laying down of principle and a code, and that I believe to have been the intention of the Law Giver. Following upon that, is it surprising that the Christian Church has followed out the same principle, and believing that marriage introduced a new relationship between the man and his wife carried into effect the same prohibitions of affinity and consanguinity in the matter of marriage? They have been, no doubt, dispensed in some cases by the great Roman Catholic Church, but, so far as the Church of England is concerned, and so far as that Church to which I have the privilege to belong is concerned, there has never been an attempt to use that dispensing power, and in both cases the prohibition is as distinct as it can possibly be made. The Confession of Faith, which is the standard of all the Presbyterian Churches, has in it this passage—

> "A man may not marry any of his wife's relations nearer than he may of his own."

That has always been the law of Scotland. The Act of 1835 made no change so far as the law of Scotland is concerned. In fact, by its very terms, its operation was excluded from Scotland, and therefore you are now, rightly or wrongly, so far as Scotland is concerned, making a breach in the law of that country both of Church and State, and, as I say, making it in an illogical manner. I pass from the ecclesiastical side of the argument because I am anxious, although making a final protest, not to detain your Lordships by anything like a long speech on this occasion, in view of the amount of business which lies before the House. After all, say what you like, this Bill is not a logical Bill, and those of us who dislike it dislike it at least as much for its method as for its nature. Its advocates do not claim that it is logical. The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, in answering this argument, said, "Let us do one thing at a time. We are not a logical nation. Let us take up one specific point. The fact that this is so ought to reassure those who are opposed to the change." It is that very circumstance that awakens our gravest apprehensions. It is because it is not logical, because it does not seem in logic that there is any justification for it, that we are afraid, little as we should like you to go further, that you are taking up a position which has no logical resting place, and on which even those who are now advocating this Bill will find themselves unable to rest. Whatever you may say about the Act of 1835, at any rate it was thoroughly logical. The First Lord of the Admiralty made out, as I think, an excellent case against the state of matters which existed before 1835. Prior to that year these marriages were voidable, but were not effectively void until the law was put into operation. There is no doubt whatever that a real evil existed under that law. The law was evaded, and brought, by being evaded, into disrepute; and you cannot read the Reports of the Royal Commissions which have sat at intervals since that time without seeing that those who knew the circumstances before 1835 would not, after the Act of that year, have been willing to go back to the state of matters which then existed. But, as I have said, the Act of 1835 was at least logical. It accepted existing faults; it established them upon a firm basis; and, having accepted what had gone before, it said that for the future neither marriages of consanguinity nor of affinity within the prohibited degrees should be valid. I do not go into the history of the Act of 1835. It may merit all that the noble and learned Lord near me said of it. There may have been this representation or that made by individual Prelates. At any rate, there is no record of these things in the Journals of the House or in *Hansard*, so far as I have been able to discover. But, taken by itself, and as meeting the circumstances of the time, I say that the Act of 1835 was a logical and a wise Act, and I deeply regret that it is now being disturbed. As I have said, you are picking out one relationship, and that not the most distant. The law of the Church and of the State up to the present time has been strictly logical. It is not represented that this is merely a Church of England matter. It is not so. I have quoted words to show that the Reformed Churches in Scotland, so far as the law is concerned, have always taken exactly the same position. You are therefore for the first time making a breach in the logical nature of the law of marriage. We are told that this is necessary because the Colonies have made changes in their law. I will not go at length into that, but if that is an argument for this Bill, it may be used as a reason also for following the Colonies in other variations of the law, and where is that likely to land us?

It is said that there is a great demand for this change in the law. The only proof that I have ever heard given of that is the number of times in which Bills of this character have been passed by the other House of Parliament. I thought that the most rev. Primate the Bishop of London disposed of the question very well the other day as to whether there was any real demand for this change in the law. The fact of the matter is, it has never been made a prominent question, and those of your Lordships who study the way in which elections are managed will, I think, be able very easily to understand how majorities can be got for proposals of this kind. Where there is carelessness and indifference, as I am sorry to think there is in regard to this matter, a small but energetic minority can always get their way. Where parties are nearly balanced those who want a particular change bind themselves together and go to this candidate and to that candidate and say they can command so many scores of votes, and that if the candidate does not agree with their proposal the votes will be cast against him. It does not very much matter whether those who use these arguments are anti-vaccinationists or are desirous of doing away with privilege cabs, they are likely, if they choose, to get their way by means of playing off one candidate against the other. Our case is this, that of all departments of law the marriage law should be simple, logical, and settled as far as possible and liable to as little change, and at as widely spread intervals, as possible. This Bill settles nothing. It unsettles everything. It involves you in logical difficulties of the gravest possible kind, and I for one should not be satisfied unless I used every means in my power to prevent the enactment of what I believe to be an unjust and improper change in the law.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now' in order to insert, at the end of the Motion, the words 'this day three months.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: My Lords, I join in thanking my noble friend the First Lord of the Admiralty for the courtesy and consideration with which he has conducted what must have been to him a thankless task, knowing as he did that he was going in the teeth of those who, whether rightly or wrongly, feel conscientious objections to this Bill; and I especially thank him for the support he gave to-day to Amendments which seem to me vital to the possibility of working the Bill at all. The position which I, and those who act with me, fill is now one of the extremest difficulty and the utmost delicacy, as well as of the highest responsibility. For the first time in the history of the Church of England has the law of the State been brought on one specific point into direct, open, overt contrast with and contradiction of the specific and defined law laid down in the authoritative regulations of the National Church. In the course of this debate statements have been made which were, to say the least, amazing to those of us who had studied the history of this matter in the past, either in the early days of the Church or in the centuries following the Reformation. Above all, there has been the strangest confusion in the minds of even learned speakers as to the meaning and range of what they have vaguely described as canon law. Some have even confused canon law with the regulations laid down by Colonial Churches for their present day guidance. But it was not necessary to enter into detail in answering those statements. Our business has been to try and reduce to a minimum what seem to us to be the inevitable difficulties, hardships, grievances, and wrongs which the passing of this Bill must bring about. I tried, with the support of many of your Lordships, to reduce these grave drawbacks to a minimum by placing at least the clergy of the Church of England outside the provisions of the Bill altogether with regard to their official responsibility and action. I failed to do that, and in consequence the burden of the difficulty—not the responsibility, for that lies elsewhere—lies, and must lie upon us. I will try to bear my share of that burden, and to discharge my share of that responsibility, to the very best of my power, for promoting the peace and welfare of the people as a whole, and for the avoidance of unnecessary friction and strife. I have endeavoured throughout the discussion on this subject, on which we feel so deeply, to use no harsh or unkindly word to those who conscientiously take a different view. But it is impossible for us to disguise from ourselves the immense difficulties and perplexities which lie ahead in the conduct of what must follow now that this Bill becomes law. I am quite sure I speak for many others, indeed for all my episcopal brethren, when I say that we will try to reduce those difficulties to a minimum, and to make the new legal arrangements work smoothly so far as is consistent with our securing absolute respect for the conscientious feelings of those whom in a special sense we are called upon to protect. If we were to put the feelings of those deeply conscientious men on one side, and forget what is involved to us clergy in a breach of the ancient rule, we should be unworthy of our place here and of the trust given to us in the Church of England. But, having said that, I desire, so far as in me lies, to look hopefully forward, because I believe it will be found that the practical operation of this Bill will be smaller than those who have promoted it believe, and that the feeling against it will show itself effectively in this way, that it will reduce to comparatively small dimensions the actual use which is made of the provisions which will now become law. I understand that the noble Lord proposes to take a division on the Third Reading, and it would be obviously impossible, after what has passed, for myself and many others who feel with me, to do otherwise than vote with him on such an occasion. At the same time, in bidding farewell to the controversies which this measure has caused within both Houses of Parliament for so many years, I repeat that, while I deplore the change of law, I desire to reduce to a minimum the conflicts and the soreness which it must create, and it will be my endeavour so to act as to let the new law operate as smoothly as in these trying and difficult circumstances it possibly can.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: My Lords, I will not detain your Lordships for more than a minute or two, but I cannot let this division take place without saying a word. Two features have marked this last stage of a long controversy which are very remarkable. To one of them I alluded the other night, and it has been referred to again this afternoon by the noble Lord who has moved the rejection of the Bill. It is the fact that the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has informed us that it is necessary to strike piecemeal at the marriage law of the country.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): I am sure the noble Duke does not mean to misrepresent me. But the very last thing I should say would be that it was desirable "to strike piecemeal at the marriage law." What I did say, and repeat, is that I most earnestly warn your Lordships never to take more than one step at a time in regard to the marriage laws, lest it may lead you into inextricable difficulty. That is all I said.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: I am very sorry to have misrepresented the noble and learned Lord. Shall I put it in this way—that the only way in which those who wish to attack our marriage laws can do so is by taking each marriage separately? I do not for a moment suppose that the noble and learned Lord wished to attack the whole of the marriage law. But it is remarkable that such a statement should be made at the moment of passing this Bill. There is another circumstance which has attended this debate, which is, I think, equally noticeable. It is that two of the highest Judges in the land—the Lord Chancellor and Lord James of Hereford—both repudiated in the strongest terms the idea that they should be bound by any authority of the Church in a matter relating to marriage. Remember, my Lords, what that assertion was. It was not an assertion of unwillingness to be bound by this branch of the Church or that—by the Church of England, the Church of Rome, or the Church of Scotland; but both these noble and learned Lords told us that they were to be bound only by their own judgments and their own consciences, and that while they would give a patient and respectful hearing to anything the Church might say, they themselves were the judges of their own actions, and would submit to no authority whatever.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I never said anything of the sort. I never claimed the right to be bound only by my own conscience and judgment; I claimed to be bound by the law of the land as passed by Parliament and assented to by the Crown.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: I did not for a moment mean to imply that noble Lords so distinguished in their profession would hold that they were absolved from obeying the civil law, but that they claimed not to be bound by the law or judgment of the Church. In other words, in matters spiritual there should be no King in Israel and that every man could do that which was right in his own eyes. That was the assertion of the noble and learned Lords; the only law which they will recognise is the civil law which they have a voice in changing, and they will not submit to any law which they cannot change and of which they have not the manipulation. I say that is a most serious statement to come from the highest Judges of the land. It is the first time I have ever heard the assertion in so high a quarter, and I say again that it is remarkable that it should be made just as we are entering on this new experiment with our marriage law. I have not troubled your Lordships with any theological arguments on this question, although I have all along believed that those arguments lie at the basis of the whole thing; but I affirm that for the prosperity of any State in the world there must be a higher authority, honoured and recognised, than that which any legislature can alter, and if there were no other reason for going into the lobby against the Third Reading of the Bill I would do so to stamp as clearly as I could my own utter detestation of the doctrines laid down.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I feel that I ought to say a few words in regard to this. The noble Duke appears to think that I have been suggesting some sort of methodical sapping and undermining of the law of marriage. I have never said anything of the kind. I am not aware of any other change in the law of marriage that I desire or that ought to be made, although I think this change ought to be made. What I have felt it my duty to call your Lordships' attention to is that you do not know how far-reaching a change in the marriage law may be; and that, therefore, if in desiring a logical system you lay down, for the sake of logic, broad propositions in regard to marriages, you may find you have done a great deal you never intended to do; you may really have the effect of destroying the system of marriage laws which the noble Duke wishes to preserve. That was really my meaning. I do not think I said anything inconsistent with that. In regard to the doctrine which I am afraid offends the noble Duke, what I said, and repeat, is that when I am thinking of what is the proper, wise, and right thing to do in amending the laws of my country, I pay the greatest respect to the opinion of all good men, and notably to the opinion of the good men who are on the Episcopal Bench in this House, but I reserve to myself the right to judge for myself, and I shall never surrender that right to any human being.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: I think it would not be respectful to the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack if I did not say that I fully accepted his first disclaimer, and that I did not in the least intend to suggest that he proposed to make successive inroads on the marriage law. I carefully guarded and limited myself to the mere statement that he did think it was necessary to take one step at a time.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I do not rise to make a speech, but to refer to what fell from the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack last year. He then told us that a particular Bill which we passed should be looked at alone and would not be considered as a precedent for anything else. But this year it was used as a precedent for this Bill by one of his own colleagues. When, therefore, the noble and learned Lord assures us that in passing the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill it will not be used as a precedent for anything further, he must admit that he cannot speak with so much authority on that subject as he did last year.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I think the noble Marquess ought to do justice. I did say last year that I did not think what was done then could legitimately be used as an argument in favour of any extension of the marriage law; I think so still.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: The First Lord of the Admiralty does not.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I think so still, and I have never said a single word to the contrary; and if the question had been put to me I would have said any time in the debate that I did not think what then took place was any precedent for what is taking place this year.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX: My Lords, I am very reluctant to trespass on your Lordships' time, but will the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack allow me to remind him of the words he used the other night? These were his words—

> "As a member of the Church, I claim to be governed by the laws of the country, and not by the laws of the Church."

Unless the noble and learned Lord is prepared to say that the Church has no laws which she has a right to enforce on her members, that statement appears to me as reasonable as it would be for the members of the Army to claim to be governed by the laws of the Navy. So far as it goes, I recognise the force of the argument brought forward by the noble Earl the President of the Council that it is not reasonable to impose a law founded on the doctrine of the Church on those who dissent from the Church, but it is an unjust and unreasonable thing to use that as an argument for destroying the discipline of the Church. You are by this Bill relieving the officers of the Church from the obligation of conforming to the law of the Church; that is what you did by refusing the Amendment of the most rev. Primate the other night. In future it will go forth, as the noble Duke has justly said, that on the authority of this House, and I must add with the sanction of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, the clergy are invited and encouraged to disobey the law of the Church of England and to play false to their solemn obligations. As to the injustice done to the Church of England, I cannot expect that your Lordships will listen to anything I can say on that subject after disregarding the weighty speech of the most rev. Primate; but I would like to remind your Lordships of what Mr. Gladstone, speaking on this subject in 1895, said. He said—

> "What fills me with alarm and anxiety, and what I think a gross injustice, and what does injure the Church of England, is the power given to the clergy to consent to and officiate at marriages forbidden by the law of the Church of England."

That is the point that comes home to me and to many others. If your Lordships think that by passing this Bill you will settle this question, I can assure you that you make a very great mistake. If in Australia only two requests were made for these marriages to be celebrated by the clergy and both were refused, do you suppose that the clergy of the Church of England in this country, who have solemnly declared these marriages forbidden by God's law, will celebrate them in their churches simply because Parliament has chosen to pass this Bill? I am certain that both clergy and laity will refuse to frame their conduct in accordance with the law which it is proposed to pass, and I think your Lordships will have gone a great step towards hastening the day when the relations of the Church and State will be seriously modified in these matters.

LORD STANMORE: My Lords, there is one point which has not been touched upon at all during this debate, and which I merely wish to point out. It is this. This Bill applies to the whole of the United Kingdom, but the reliefs which are contained in the provisoes to the first clause affect only the clergy of the Established Church of England. Why is there no mention of the Established Church of Scotland? The ministers of the latter church are just as hostile to these marriages as any minister of the Established Church of England. The law of the Church of Scotland prohibits marriage with a deceased wife's sister, yet no such relief is afforded to those ministers. Why? Because in Scotland the Church Courts are the exclusive and final judges in regard to all matters of doctrinal and disciplinary matters. Under the terms of the Union you dare not give those relaxations for the Established Church of Scotland which you give, in a way which utterly destroys the theory of Church discipline, to the members of the Church of England.

On Question, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question," their Lordships divided:—Contents. 98; Not-Contents, 54.

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Bill read 3^a accordingly, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

COUNCIL OF INDIA BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, I have had personal communications with my right hon. friend Mr. Morley, and I have to tell the noble Viscount opposite that he feels compelled to say that he cannot consent at this period of the session to any change in this measure. I would, therefore, beg the noble Viscount not to press the Amendment which he proposed, as it would obviously be fatal to the passing of the Bill.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^a."—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

On Question, Bill read 3^a and passed.

LAND VALUES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD HAMILTON OF DALZELL: My Lords, the effect of this Bill will be that during the year commencing on Whitsunday, 1909, a valuation will have to be made of the capital value of all land in Scotland, and that this will have to be entered in the Valuation Roll in a special column which will be provided for that purpose. A similar entry will require to be made every succeeding year. Of course, if the land has not changed in value nothing further will require to be done, but if there has been any alteration, the entry will have to be altered accordingly. That is all that this Bill provides. It is simply a valuation Bill. Indeed, the fourth subsection of the first section of the Bill provides that until Parliament otherwise determines no person shall be liable to be rated or taxed in respect of the entry prescribed by this Act. I do not mean to say that it is not intended that this valuation shall eventually be made the basis upon which rates shall be levied. That is, undoubtedly, the intention, but special legislation will be necessary for that purpose. There is nothing of that sort in the present Bill.

The Bill is founded on the recommendation of the Select Committee of the other House of Parliament to which the Scottish Land Values (Taxation) Bill of last year was remitted. That Committee recommended that that Bill should not be further proceeded with; and that a new Bill should be introduced making provision for a valuation being made of all land in the burghs and counties of Scotland, apart from the buildings and improvements upon it, and that until the amount of that valuation is known and considered no assessment should be determined upon. That seems a very prudent course to follow, and that is the course which is followed by this Bill.

It is interesting to trace the Parliamentary history of the various Bills dealing with this matter. A Bill on this subject has been introduced in the other House of Parliament every year for the last six years. All those Bills differed from this one in that they combined rating with valuation. In 1902 the Urban

Site Value Rating Bill was introduced and was rejected on Second Reading by seventy-one votes. In 1903 the Land Values Assessment and Rating Bill was introduced, and was rejected on Second Reading by eighteen votes. In 1904 a Bill with a similar name passed its Second Reading by sixty-seven votes, and in 1905 another similar Bill passed Second Reading by ninety votes, so that it would seem that even during the time in which the Party of noble Lords opposite had a majority in the House of Commons there was a steady trend of Parliamentary opinion in favour of this principle. In 1906 the Land Values Taxation (Scotland) Bill passed its Second Reading by a majority of 258 votes. That is the Bill which was referred to a Select Committee, to the Report of which I have already alluded. In addition to the Report of that Select Committee a very interesting and valuable contribution has been made to this subject in the Minority Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation, which was signed by Lord Balfour of Burleigh, the late Lord Kinross, Sir George Murray, Sir Edward Hamilton, and Mr. Stewart. I claim that that Report contains recommendations which cover almost the whole of the ground covered by this Bill.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Will the noble Lord quote the passage?

LORD HAMILTON OF DALZELL: I have several passages which I propose to quote in a moment. I do not think your Lordships will be surprised that I, or anyone else who has to introduce a Scottish Bill in this House, should wish to claim Lord Balfour of Burleigh as a supporter, and I shall quote a few passages from that Report which seem to me to show that at that time the noble Lord was not altogether unfavourable to this principle. The Scottish edition of the Report of that Committee contains a similar Minority Report to the one in the English and Welsh sections, and is signed by the same gentlemen. The final paragraph runs as follows—

> "For the reasons explained in the former Report, we conclude that a separate valuation of sites, apart from the structure upon them, should be made, and a rate proportioned to the site value alone should be levied for urban improvement purposes in the larger burghs. It should be divided equally between occupiers and owners. All existing contracts should be absolutely respected, but in the case of future contracts the owner should be entitled to deduct from any rent, feu duty, or ground annual payable to a superior, the amount of the rate in the £ upon the value which attaches to the site at the date when the contract is made; a like right of deduction being given to any intermediate parties against their superior. The rate should apply to unoccupied property and uncovered land under the conditions laid down for England."

It will be observed that in that passage it is distinctly laid down that in the larger burghs a separate valuation of sites apart from the structures upon them should be made, and to that extent I claim that we have the support of the noble Lord. The paragraph goes on to suggest certain rates which should be levied in respect of that valuation, and it also suggests the purpose to which those rates should be applied. As I have already said, this Bill does not provide for the striking of any rate whatever, but I have no doubt that when Parliament comes to consider that question the recommendations of the noble Lord and his colleagues will receive the weighty consideration to which they are entitled. As regards the recommendation that all existing contracts should be respected, I would point out that the Prime Minister stated on 20th June that this would be absolutely done, that the Lord-Advocate made a similar statement as long ago as last year on the Second Reading of the Bill of that year, and that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the course of a speech in another place on the Report Stage of this Bill, made a similar declaration only a few days ago. A letter appeared in *The Times* of last Saturday week from Lord Balfour of Burleigh in which he protests against his being quoted as being in favour of the principles of this Bill on account of his having signed that Minority Report. I do not claim that the Minority Report supports the extension of this system of valuation to rural districts—that is one of the points which the noble Lord makes in his letter—but this is what it says about urban districts. On page 169 of the English Report of 1901 this passage occurs—

> "On the whole we are disposed to think that a valuation of sites, sufficiently accurate for the purpose and not inferior to the present

valuation of hereditaments could be made without undue labour and expense."

That is a very valuable assertion with regard to the possibility of making this valuation, and I may add that it exactly indicates the opinion of the authors of this Bill, and that, further, they are of opinion that it would be just as easy, and no more expensive, to make a similar valuation in rural districts. But, of course, until the experiment has been tried all these matters must be very largely matters of opinion, and it is with the object of testing how far this system is practical and workable that this Bill is introduced.

As to the cost of this valuation, the most divergent views have been expressed. One of the opponents of the Bill in another place gave it as his opinion that it would cost anything from £2,000,000 to £4,500,000 to do it. Our opinion is that that figure is enormously exaggerated, and as an indication of what we think it is likely to cost I may say that the official surveyors of Edinburgh and Glasgow have given it as their opinion that a valuation on this system of the land in those two cities might be made for the sum of £10,000, and I need hardly say that on that basis the cost of the valuation throughout the whole of Scotland would not amount to more than a very small fraction of the £2,000,000 to which I have alluded. Then there is another point. In many parts of Scotland these valuations are made by the Inland Revenue surveyors of taxes free of charge to the local authority, and there does not seem any reason why these same surveyors of taxes should not make this new valuation. In that case there would equally be no cost to the local authority, and in any case the expense would not fall altogether upon the local authority. In that connection I would like to call your Lordships' attention to a passage in the speech which was made by the Lord Advocate in reply to a deputation representing the Association of County Councils of Scotland. This was on 20th July, and the Lord Advocate then said—

> "I have therefore thought it my duty to represent this matter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and I have now his authority for announcing to you that if it should be found—as I think it will be found—that such an addition shall be made to the duties of those assessors as really to be in a reasonable sense a fair addition to their duties, worthy of estimation and worthy of consideration by the Exchequer, the claims by the local authority, on which the initial charge for the first year will thus heavily fall, will receive fair and favourable consideration from the Exchequer, with a view to granting what, in the opinion of the Treasury, is a reasonable subsidy."

That, I think, disposes of the idea that any unfair and excessive expenditure will be forced upon the local authorities, and I may add that it does not seem likely that, as a general rule, any considerable expense will be involved on individuals. With regard to that, I may say that my friend Mr. Munro-Ferguson, who is generally recognised as an authority on matters relating to Scottish land, and whose authority I think will appeal to the House, has given it as his opinion that on any estate where a factor is employed no expense will be incurred at all.

THE MARQUESS OF HUNTLY: How is the factor employed?

LORD SALTOUN: Will the noble Lord give us an instance of an estate where a factor is employed?

LORD HAMILTON OF DALZELL: I have a factor on my own estate. I think what Mr. Munro-Ferguson meant was that in every estate office there would be facilities for making out these returns without expense, or, at any rate, with but trifling cost. The object of this Bill is to create a new basis for rating. Under the existing system the rates are imposed on the annual letting value of a subject; that is to say, the value of the land and the value of the improvements are taken together and their annual letting value entered in a valuation roll. The objection to that system would seem to be that so far as it imposes a rate of importance, to that extent it is a discouragement to landlords from improving their property. I think that very striking examples of this may sometimes be found in country districts, because it is not difficult to imagine the case of a piece of land which is lying waste and which by drainage and other reclamation works might be made into an agricultural subject, but where the fact that perhaps a very heavy rate will be levied on the improved value in many cases makes such an undertaking hardly worth carrying out. I know there are such cases. A system of rating on the unimproved value of the land, on the other hand, would seem to encourage improvement and not to discourage it as the present system does. There is one other advantage of this system—namely, that it would discourage what is known as the holding up of land in towns for speculative purposes—a process which is rather encouraged than the reverse by the present system of rating.

There is a further point in the Bill with which I must deal, and that is the change which it is proposed to make from annual value to capital value as the basis of valuation. That change by itself is not of very great importance. I will explain what I mean in this way, that a 1s. rate taken on the annual value of property would be broadly the same as a halfpenny rate taken on capital value. The same amount would have to be paid in each case. Of course, where the difference would come in would be if a hypothetical capital value is placed upon subjects which make little or no annual return. That is an important part of this question; and the question of how far it is justifiable to do this is one which will have to be most carefully considered when the imposition of rates on this valuation comes to be discussed in Parliament. I will confess that my own idea of what is fair and just does not carry me beyond a certain point in this matter. Of course, in this matter I do not occupy the fortunate position of the noble Earl who addressed us recently from the cross benches on another matter affecting Scotland, and who was able to tell us that it was a matter which did not affect him personally. This is a matter which does affect me, and it is possible that my judgment may be warped by that fact. But, however that may be, the question will have to be most carefully considered, and I have not the slightest doubt that the scales will be fairly held between private interests and public necessity in this matter.

As far as the Bill goes, I do not think there is much in it for me to explain. The fifth subsection of Section 1 provides that the valuation Appeal Court shall in future consist of three Juges of the Court of Session instead of two, as has hitherto been the case. That is a change which I believe has been contemplated for some time, and it has been thought convenient to introduce it into this Bill. The advantages of the new arrangement are, I think, obvious. They are those which invariably attach to having an odd instead of an even number of Judges to try a case. Section 4 contains the modifications in the existing Valuation Acts which are considered to be necessary for the purpose of this particular valuation, and Section 3 is the definition clause. That clause is an important part of the Bill. It is very fully set out, and, unless noble Lords raise particular points, which will be better considered, perhaps, in Committee if the Bill is allowed to get into Committee, I do not propose to enter further into that now.

In conclusion, I would like to again allude to the letter which was written by Lord Balfour of Burleigh to *The Times*. In that letter the noble Lord says it is not unfair to the authors of the Bill to presume that their object is to obtain information which may be turned to account for the furtherance of what he describes a few lines before as "predatory schemes." In regard to that I will only say that I am convinced that if any schemes which can be fairly described as of a predatory nature are introduced into Parliament it will not be done on the authority of His Majesty's present advisers, and I am confident that the information and *data* which will be made available if this Bill becomes law will be used, not for the purpose of making an attack upon any individual, or class, or interest, but for the purpose of making an honest and straightforward attempt to improve the system of valuation in Scotland, and it is on that ground that I ask your Lordships to give this Bill a Second Reading.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2a."—(*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell.*)

*Lord ROBERTSON, who had given notice, on the Motion for the Second Reading, to move to resolve "That this House declines to proceed with a measure which would have no operative effect, except to cause fruitless expense and to unsettle and prejudice important questions as to taxation and rating, which it makes no attempt to solve," said: My Lords, I congratulate the noble Lord upon the clear and pleasing way in which he has presented this difficult subject to the House, and I am sure we shall welcome on all occasions his intervention in debate. I must congratulate him also on the cheerful optimism of his view on the situation. He seems to think that it is a very reasonable proposal, first of all to alter the valuation roll, and, secondly, to add incidentally that it is proposed to go further and alter the law of rating.

Now I want to put a challenge to whoever speaks for the Government next on this one point. I can quite understand your asking us to accept this Bill as it stands; that is to say, as a Bill for altering the valuation roll. I quite understand your proposing a change in the law of rating so as to rate real property on the capital value divested of holdings. But I would ask your attention to this, that that last is a large proposal, that this is the 26th of August, and that it is contemplated to prorogue Parliament the day after to-morrow. The Committee stage to which Lord Hamilton of Dalzell so hopefully referred will occupy some time, and how that time is to be screwed into to-morrow and what will remain of Wednesday before the prorogation it is for His Majesty's Government to say. But I notice that a curious hesitation and alternation of view on the Bill has charactised the speeches of Ministers and their procedure from the very commencement. This Bill was introduced into the House of Commons under the ten-minutes rule, and it was read a second time on, I think, 12th July. This Bill, if it is regarded as a question of rating, makes a stupendous change. The Bill, if it touches rating, is a stupendous change not merely in the law of rating but in the law of property in Scotland, and I am surprised at the levity with which Ministers have passed from one aspect of this Bill to the other as if it was a mere matter of taste and choice on the part of anyone reading the Bill which view he takes. What actually does the Bill propose to do? It proposes to add—and this is all—one column to the existing valuation roll. Now the noble Lord spoke as if the existing valuation roll was a sort of repertory of miscellaneous information. The valuation roll is a much more definite and a much more serious thing than that. It is a carefully-framed instrument for rating, and it proceeds upon a perfectly definite theory. The preamble of the Act points out as the theory upon which it proceeds that the real, actual rent or value of the land is to be the criterion of rating. That is the theory of the Act setting up the Valuation Roll.

Now the present proposal, as I have said, on its face, does nothing more than this very moderate proceeding. It sets up a new column which is to set forth the capital value of those same parcels of land, but the capital value of the land divested of all buildings and improvements. Now, my Lords, I observe upon that—strictly adhering to the merely formal view of the matter—that that new column kills all the other columns. It is totally inconsistent with them. The theory upon which it proceeds is the theory that you are not to tax or rate the actual value of the land as it exists, but that you are to conjure up the idea of the land with no buildings and no improvements upon it, and make that the basis of your valuation. I cannot help thinking, although the noble Lord went through it with appropriate gravity for an official, that the draftsman of this Bill is a wag, because he lets the cat out of the bag in in a very remarkable way in the 4th Subsection of Clause 1—

> "Until Parliament otherwise determines, no person shall be liable to be taxed or rated in respect of the entry prescribed by this Act."

So that here your mighty change, which the heart of Scotland is set upon, is a change for putting in a new column which is not to be acted upon! I think that anything more silly than to make up a Valuation Roll and then to go to a great deal of expense, as we shall show, and then to say that there is no use to be made of it, is hard to imagine. It is about as inept a proceeding as the Legislature was ever invited to cooperate in. The primary answer to this Bill is this: Unless and until you make up your mind on the question of rating it is wasting time and money to make up a Roll, and it is really —literally and in the proper sense of the term—a preposterous proposal. It is putting the cart before the horse. Unless you can make up your mind to this momentous change in the law of rating this is mere idle and superflous machinery.

I have said that the suggested change—I will not say the proposed change, because it is not proposed, but the suggested change—in the law of rating is a momentous change, and I want to say upon that subject, in the meantime, only this—that this Bill, so far as it relates to the law of rating, is an attempt to evade that momentous question and to commit Parliament by implication to its adoption by turning round next session and saying: "You never would have been so foolish as to make up this roll unless you had assumed the change now proposed." I say that that is not fair to Parliament, and that for Parliament in the expiring hours of this session to adopt that course would be to commit itself to momentous consequences which it would have to work out in subsequent sessions and of which it has not the remotest conception. In the view which I take of this Bill it is not necessary—nay, I would say it is not relevant to the present question—to consider the merits of the proposed change. It is enough to say that it is a change of capital importance, it is a change which would enormously alter the incidence of rating and gravely affect the value of property. If that be conceded to me, and I do not think that anyone can avoid conceding it, then my conclusion arises at once. Make up your mind upon the merits of that question before you rig up the machinery which is to carry it out.

I have endeavoured to condense what I was going to say, because I think that is a duty which a Member of this House owes to his fellow Members at this period of the session, but there are one or two observations which I should like to offer to those who may be beguiled by the innocent appearance of the Bill as being a mere matter of machinery and arrangement. I cannot see why, if the Government are anxious for information, they require an Act of Parliament to get it. They can move for any number of returns, they can get experimentally all the information which would enable them and Parliament to judge of this proposal, and my objection is what I have stated and re-stated—that in passing this Act of Parliament you inevitably commit yourself to the theory which is shadowed forth in the Bill. It is said: "But this new column, at all events, is cognate information to what the valuer requires for all valuations." That I deny, and I will give noble Lords opposite, with their leave, my plain and frank view of this eighth column. Your Lordships know that some of the newspapers have lately taken boldly to the plan of interpolating advertisements into even the Parliamentary debates. I was struck last week in reading some of the very able speeches of the President of the Board of Agriculture on some of the questions about small holdings. I thought that for once there must be a flaw in the reasoning, for I found myself reading a copious laudation of a cure for baldness. Now, my Lords, that is exactly what is proposed to be done in this case. There are certain Radical patent remedies for which it is wanted to get a semblance of authority, and it is to be done in this way—that you are to put in the eighth column the nostrums of the Radical Party and accustom the people of this country to deal with them as if they were realities I object to that. I have a long acquaintance with the Valuation Roll, and have come to have, as I think many people in Scotland have, a sort of affection for it. It came of good respectable Whig parentage, and I should be sorry to see it, in its old age, turned into a sandwich-man for Mr. Henry George and sent out, while it is still able to work, to do the dirty work of Scotch Radicalism. No, my Lords, I must own that I think this new plan of foisting remedies which are not boldly and frankly offered to Parliament is one which should be sharply discouraged.

Now, the noble Lord, as cheerful in this as in other things, has said that there is a great deal of nonsense talked about the expense which would be incurred. Has he carefully considered this—that whereas in an ordinary case the present valuer, or assessor as he is called in Scotland, goes to a shopkeeper or a farmer and asks him about matters of fact and forces him to give information about matters of fact which are feasible and accessible, in the case of this eighth column what the assessor has to do is to call upon the man to exercise his power of imagination. Take a matter-of-fact shopkeeper in Glasgow who is the owner of his shop; he is asked by the assessor: "What is the value of the site of your shop divested of the shop and buildings?" If the assessor were to go to that man during business hours, I think he would be apt to get the answer which the wounded American gave to the missionary on the field of battle: "Oh, stranger, this is no time for conundrums!" In like manner if the farmer were asked: "Imagine your farm divested of all improvements, all the steadings, and all the buildings," he would say that he knew nothing about it, and he would think the man was laughing at him. I mention that for this reason: that in default of the power of ingenuity and skill, you must call in people who are either skilled or profess to be skilled. I dare say that in many instances the kind of ingenuity you want is very much the same as is successful with "Limericks," but if you aspire to working out this conjuring trick you will have to go to the expense of getting somebody who will at all events give a written report or a sonorous name to his view, and I dare say he would not be much wiser than the man who answered first. But remember this also—the noble Lord's estimates are probably more reliable than mine—but I have seen in the public newspapers and elsewhere the assertion made that there are somewhere about a million-and-a-half of these separate entries which will have to be made. Observe, they are not taking from a book or from a list the figures which you want, but they are exercising those powers of imagination and conjecture which would so largely be called upon for this new enterprise. I do not approve of honest citizens being subject to fine for failure to give any such returns. And a curious intimation of timidity in the Bill is that they are given a very long time to make up their returns, which, I think, indicates that it is, as I have said, a somewhat difficult enterprise.

Lord Robertson.

I hope I have not wearied the House, but I want to ask, with some urgency, another question of His Majesty's Government. This is a Scottish Bill. Why Scottish? Just let me remind your Lordships of the proposal which is adumbrated. It is that you should abstract and eliminate from rating all buildings, and, therefore, the bare ground is what is to be the sole contributory to the rates. In plain English, that means an enormous reduction of the assessable value and accordingly an enormous heightening of the rates on land. It has been said—and I wonder whether noble Lords on the other side have any clear views about this matter, and whether they can give me a contradiction upon the subject—that in many places the rates which would fall upon vacant ground would be twenty shillings or even more in the pound. I said that this was a momentous change, and your Lordships will observe that if that, or anything like that be the truth, while the proprietor is to be left with the formal title to the land, the beneficial ownership of the land is to be with the community. That is, in short, neither more nor less than the nationalization of land and sites. I want to ask, is that the policy of His Majesty's Government, and, if so, why for Scotland and not for England? Is there anything in the chemical composition of the Scottish soil which calls for extraordinary treatment of that kind? Is there anything in Scottish conditions of life and industry, in its history, or in its law, which justifies that distinction? Am I not right in saying that it is merely because you think you can "try this on" in Scotland—that you cannot try it on in England, but that you can in Scotland, because you will swell the sails of this paltry little Bill with large talk about Liberalism and progress? Those are questions which the House of Lords must ask at this stage of the proceedings. It is certainly a Second Reading question which I have argued to your Lordships; and I regard this Bill as merely a maladroit and puzzle-headed proposal, with a side eye to get Parliament committed to what it does not understand, and is not even asked formally to consider. I object to it on that ground, because it is paltering with rights which ought to be treated with the greatest respect, and the neglect of which would bring about, certainly in Scotland, and in my opinion in any other part of the country, the ruin of industry. I beg to move the Resolution which stands in my name.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out all the words after 'that,' in order to add 'this House declines to proceed with a measure which would have no operative effect, except to cause fruitless expense and to unsettle and prejudice important questions as to taxation and rating, which it make no attempt to solve.'"—(*Lord Robertson.*)

*THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Lord TWEEDMOUTH): My Lords, the noble Lord has, as he always does, put the case which he had to make with the greatest advantage and very pleasantly to your Lordships; but I do not think he made any serious case against the Second Reading of this Bill. He began with the usual charge made in this House against His Majesty's Government, whichever party is in power, at the end of the session. Your Lordships must remember that all Governments suffer in the same way—they all find that measures have to be largely introduced in the House of Commons, that they have to be dealt with in the House of Commons, and that, therefore, they must necessarily come to this House at the latter end of the session. A change in the procedure seems to me to be the only relief from this state of affairs; and I must say, speaking in the interests of your Lordship's House, that it would be a very good thing if, in the future, we could carry on the Bills that come to this House at the end of the session and deal with them at the beginning of the next session. That seems to me to be a most reasonable proposal, and one that would get rid of those charges that we mutually, from year to year, throw at one another.

This Bill, which my noble and learned friend (Lord Robertson) so greatly condemns, seems to me to be but a very small matter. I do not think it raises the important questions which the noble and learned Lord endeavoured to raise upon it. He said that a great deal of danger was going to be caused to property owners in Scotland because an additional column was to be added to the Valuation Roll setting out the value of the bare ground itself without the buildings and other improvements which are upon it. If the noble Lord thinks that that is a very novel thing, I do not think he is right; and I imagine that he will have to settle considerable differences with his noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh. This Bill is not a rating Bill at all; it is a pure valuation Bill. And it is fortunate for this House that it is merely a valuation Bill, because, if it were a rating Bill, your Lordships would only be able to deal with it by throwing it out on Second Reading, whereas now you can amend it in any direction you like without coming into conflict with the other House.

We say that this Bill is founded on three assumptions—that it is reasonable to make such a valuation, that it is possible to do so, and that it is desirable to do so; and I think those assumptions are certainly borne out by the various inquiries which have taken place during the last few years on this particular subject. The last was the Committee which reported to Parliament in December, 1906. What does that Committee say in its Report? It says that it considers that the new system of rating based upon the yearly value of land apart from buildings and improvements upon it is sound and would prove advantageous; that, to set it up by estimating the value of land apart from buildings is practicable; that in making valuations, regard must be had to all restrictions imposed upon the land and to recent expenditure; that exemptions such as are proposed under Clause 6 of the Bill are proper, but that to those exemptions railways, canals, docks, piers, and harbours should be added in the same way as was laid down in the Valuation Act (Scotland), 1854. But now comes a curious fact; there was a Minority Report of the Royal Commission who sat for nearly five years on local taxation, and my noble friend (Lord Hamilton) has already spoken of the Report of that minority. I would again remark that the minority was composed of Lord Kinross, who was a very distinguished Scottish legal authority, was long in the House of Commons and was Lord President in Edinburgh. Then there was my noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who has lived in local government in Scotland and than whom nobody is a greater authority on the subject. Then there were two very distinguished Treasury officials, Sir Edward Hamilton and Sir George Murray; and there was Mr. James Stuart, who has been a professor and a politician, who has been long in the House of Commons, and who is now at any rate a very successful commercial business man. What did that Minority Report say? In the first place it dealt with the question of the valuation of sites in urban districts apart from the buildings on them, and it concluded by saying that such a valuation ought to be made, and that a rate for certain purposes should be imposed on that valuation.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Annual valuation.

*LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Yes. Then the Report states that a valuation of sites sufficiently accurate for the purpose, and not inferior to the present valuation of hereditaments, could be made without undue labour and expense; and it then went on to say that such valuation had been in operation in the Australian colonies, and to quote the Reports laid before Parliament upon the working of the taxation of improved value of land in New Zealand, New South Wales and South Australia. Then my noble friend (Lord Balfour of Burleigh) had also, before the time of this Commission, given his adherence to the same views on other Commissions with which he has been connected; and in the Report of the Commission on Local Taxation of 1901, I find it is stated that a site would have value——

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The noble Lord is mistaken. I was on only one Commission. I do not want to interrupt the noble Lord, but in the earlier part of his quotation he seemed to think that I was upon the Committee of the House of Commons which dealt with the Glasgow Bill; I am sure he does not intend to imply that; but the Minority Report of the Local Taxation Commission is the only one I was ever concerned with.

*LORD TWEEDMOUTH: That was 1902.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Yes, it is all one Commission.

*LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Was not the noble Lord connected with the Commission of 1901?

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: That is the same thing.

*LORD TWEEDMOUTH: At any rate, in their final Report they say that the site would have value if cleared of buildings, and that a valuation of sites sufficiently accurate for the purpose, and not inferior to the present valuation of hereditaments, could be made without any undue labour and expense.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: On the annual value.

*LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Yes, on the annual value. I think that the real fact of the matter is, that this new column of the valuation roll would really lead up to a future system of rating. But because that column is added to the valuation roll it does not at all bind the Government now or in the future to any particular course; it simply gives to the Government one further item of information, which may be valuable with regard to any particular rating. The rating in Scotland at the present moment is very uneven indeed. I have taken out some figures to show how differently it falls in Glasgow and in Edinburgh, and I find that in Glasgow it falls in the proportion of 10½d. on the owner and 2s. 7½d. on the occupier, so that the owner is rated about one-third of what the occupier is.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Surely the heavier burden is on the occupier in the case of Glasgow.

*LORD TWEEDMOUTH: That is what I say—2s. 7½d. on the occupier, and 10½d. on the owner; so that the occupier pays about three times as much as the owner. In Edinburgh the rate on the owner is 10½d., the same as in Glasgow, and the rate on the ccupier is 1s. 9½d., or about twice as much on the occupier as on the owner. That is, I think, a state of things which is not very satisfactory, and which shows the necessity and the justice of making some change in the rating law of that country. I must say that I think it is a very natural thing to endeavour to arrive at a valuation of the bare land without counting in the buildings. The principal statistical officer of the London County Council, with whom I worked for ten years, and whom I know extremely well, made a calculation that he would be prepared to give a valuation of the land separate from the buildings in the county of London for a sum of £25,000 for the first year, and to continue it annually, he thought, would not cost more than £5,000 a year. I believe that such information is desirable to the Government, that it would help the proper adjustment of rating, and would lead to the proper apportionment of the rates as between different holders of property holding under different conditions throughout the length and breadth of the land. I do not think there is anything in this Bill which leads to Socialism or to robbery from the landowner, and I hope, my Lords, you will not accept the view taken by the noble and learned Lord (Lord Robertson).

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I am extremely reluctant to intervene at this early time in the debate; but both the noble Lords upon the Front Bench opposite have made such pointed allusions to me that I think the House will probably extend to me its indulgence when I endeavour to show, as I think I can show, that they are entirely wrong in assuming that in the Minority Report to which they have made frequent reference your Lordships will find the slightest shade of a shadow of support for the proposals in this Bill.

The noble Lord who introduced the Bill talked about its principles. I do not know what those principles are. There is, at any rate so far as the Bill is concerned, no actual proposal to make a rate. But the very essence of the Minority Report to which both the noble Lord and Lord Tweedmouth referred, is that while we admit that there is a certain *prima facie* case for a change—which I will explain to your Lordships in a moment—we say in emphatic language, over and over again, that there should not be a change made until Parliament lays down the conditions upon which it should be made, and says what use is to be made of the new rate to be levied.

I notice just in passing that the noble Lord who has just spoken exercised a wise reticence about the challenge of the noble and learned Lord (Lord Robertson). He made no response to the question why this Bill was introduced only for Scotland. With regard to the time at which we have arrived, I agree very largely with the noble Lord's idea—I wish we could carry over this Bill. I think it is deservng of very considerable discussion—much more considerable and detailed discussion than we can possibly give to it when we are within forty-eight or sixty hours of the end of the session. The noble Lord who has just sat down (Lord Tweedmouth) talks of this as a "small matter"; he says that it is merely an additional column to the well-known valuation roll, and that it is only a valuation. But, if it means anything at all, it prepares the way for an absolute revolution in rating, and it introduces a new principle into the system of valuation and of rating. It prepares the way, if it prepares the way for anything at all, for a proposal to rate on capital value and not on annual value, as we have hitherto been accustomed to do. The only other preliminary remark which I shall make is this: that, in regard to the amount of the rates which the noble Lord quoted with regard to Edinburgh and Glasgow, these figures are no doubt very interesting to him, but, unless he tells us of what those total sums are made up, they really can have no interest for your Lordships. When you compare the rate between owner and occupier in places like Edinburgh and Glasgow, you are bound to consider what are the component parts of those rates, and whether they include purely beneficial rates in the case of the occupier, such as water rate, gas rate, and so on, which depend entirely on the amount of consumption, and which could under no circumstances, with any shadow of justice, be placed upon the owner. I do not press that question, unless the noble Lord is prepared to answer it. But I do ask your Lordships to dismiss entirely from your minds any comparison of the amount of rates falling upon the owner and the occupier, even so far as they concern the matter which we are now discussing, which is not the case to any great extent, because the data and the details of the calculation were not given to your Lordships.

The first question I want to address myself to is this. In the Minority Report to which the noble Lord (Lord Tweedmouth) has referred, I and those who signed it with me committed ourselves to the statement that it was desirable for certain purposes to have a separate valuation of site from the structure, but it was to be on the annual value; and there is not the possibility of quoting a passage out of that Report which in any way lends colour to the idea that we thought it fair or expedient to change the valuation, still less to change from annual to capital value. As regards the cost, there is certainly much difference of opinion. Personally, I am inclined to think it is possible, feasible, and even desirable, to have a separation of the valuation between the site and the structure in urban districts. And those who signed the Report along with me thought that the weight of evidence tended towards the conclusion that a separate valuation was feasible and could be done at no great cost. But the estimates of cost put before us varied very much; and the noble Lord (Lord Hamilton) I think, very much underrated it, because, especially if you are going to put a new column in the valuation roll which is to deal, not with capital value but with annual value, you will have a great deal more matter for conjecture, and a great deal more difficulty, than in dealing with the mere valuation of what is actual rent paid and what is actual rent received.

If I may diverge for a moment—and I will not occupy your Lordships' time longer than I can possibly help—we thought there were certain difficulties and anomalies in the existing rating system which could only be cured by a separation of the value of the site and the value of the structure; but I say that when this Report, with such authority as attaches to it, is quoted, such a sentence as this should not be overlooked—

> "We should be sorry to lend any countenance to the crude and violent theories which some witnesses have put before us on the subject of the taxation of land, but a cause which is reasonable in itself ought not to be prejudiced by the excesses of the unreasonable advocate; and a careful consideration of the particular circumstances of urban local taxation has led us to the conclusion that a moderate rate proportioned to site value ought to be imposed as part of another scheme for the readjustment of the burden of local taxation in urban districts."

And we give an instance which is very short and which, I think, I may usefully quote to your Lordships. We give an instance of a hereditament consisting of a small house on a valuable site and with the same gross value as a larger house on a less valuable site. The same deduction is allowed from the gross value of each hereditament for repairs, insurance, and so on. For example, if a property has a gross value of £900 a year, made up of site value, £600, and structural value, £300, at present a deduction of one-sixth of the gross value, namely, £150, would be allowed, and the rateable value would be £750. But, obviously, the proper deduction of the one-sixth should not be on the whole but on the structure, that is one-sixth of £300 is £50; and the rateable value should be £850. We have never committed ourselves in any way to taxation upon the capital value. We say, however, that there is an increase of value in all urban districts due to the expenditure of public authorities upon improvements, and to that extent alone we say that it is desirable that there should be some change in the incidence of rating. But this Bill proposes to depart from annual value altogether, and you will find not the least support in our Report for the idea of departing from annual value and rating on capital value. We give instances of how unfairly it might work.

We quote the opinion of Mr. Cross, the valuer, of Manchester, who says—

> "To assess land from which little or no annual rent is derived upon its dormant or undeveloped value, would be the introduction of a new principle in rating, and would lead to the assessment of unproductive capital."

And the evidence put before us—and I venture to say the evidence put before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, upon which this Bill professes to be founded—is absolutely overwhelming against the proposal of rating upon capital value. I say without fear of contradiction that that opinion has been and is practically universal and unanimous upon the part of those who have had any practical experience at all in the matter. It is important to remember this great distinction. We never proposed to have any regard to capital value, and we believe and say that along with the present system of rating upon annual value any idea to rate upon a percentage upon capital value is impossible and absurd. If this Bill means anything at all it means to prepare the way for that great revolution, and I say that it is not dealing fairly with Parliament—it is not dealing fairly with this House or with the other—to bring in a small instalment of a change such as this without stating much more definitely than the Government have done what their real object is.

I venture to say that this Bill deserves all that has been said of it by the noble and learned Lord (Lord Robertson). What are the objects aimed at? I do not know what objects are aimed at by the Government, because they have not said what their objects are, but the objects aimed at by many of their supporters are perfectly clear and distinct, and they are set forth in the Majority Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons of last year. They are to create a new basis for rating and for taxation, and I think I may venture to say without fear of contradiction that, though kept in the background at present by the Government, the real issue is to attempt to establish a basis on which local authorities shall at some time or another get power to acquire land compulsorily, or, if not so, at any rate by taxation to confiscate the whole value of the property.

My Lords, let me ask you to consider the history of this movement. It has been my duty, as chairman of that Commission to which reference has been made, to give some study to it, and the great impetus to this movement dates from the time when Mr. Henry George was in this country. There is an English League for the taxation of land values, called the Land Reform Union, and their programme sets forth that it is their desire to advance the principles laid down by Mr. Henry George in "Progress and Poverty," for the restoration of the land to the people; and to schemes of that kind we in our Report did not intend to give any countenance or support. There has been a Scottish League with a similar programme, and the movement has been going on in Glasgow and the west of Scotland for ten or fifteen years. In 1895 a recommendation that land values—that is, the capital value—should be taken as the basis of valuation was adopted by the Glasgow Town Council. That became the basis of what is known as the "Glasgow Bill," which was the Bill sent to a Select Committee of the House of Commons last year, which Committee by a majority reported that it should not be proceeded with. The course of the evidence of those who were promoting that Bill made it perfectly clear that the taxation that they hoped to get an opportunity of levying was to be increased from time to time so as ultimately to absorb the interest of the owner, and I venture to say that the Government have largely themselves to thank for the suspicion with which this Bill is regarded, and I say here without fear of contradiction that their method of treating the subject has done grave injury to many interests. Last year some of their Members, notably the Solicitor-General, had a sort of campaign over Scotland, in which they laid down proposals, and advocated them, for what is nothing more nor less than a wholesale breach of contracts. It is true that during the present session the propaganda of the Solicitor-General has been disavowed by the Prime Minister and by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but it did almost incalculable harm in Scotland before these disavowals were made.

I ask your Lordships to consider the contents of this Bill. Just look at the sort of conundrums which would have to be answered by the unfortunate valuers. There are no definite rules laid down, and the noble and learned Lord (Lord Robertson) said there would be nothing at all to guide those who ought to have definite and distinct rules laid down. Just look at this provision. I do not know whether your Lordships know what is meant by tenement houses, but they are something analogous to what we know in the metropolis as "flats," and here is one of the provisions in this Bill—

> "Where the same lands and heritages are, under the Valuation Acts, entered in the valuation roll in respect of more than one occupancy, the entry prescribed by this Act may, unless a separate capital land value can be ascertained in respect of each ccupancy, be made opposite such one of the occupancies as the assessor considers most appropriate."

Of course the assessor would take advantage of that alternative, and the result of it would be that if there was a large garden attached to any one of these tenement houses, or as I should call them, flats, the assessor might, if he chose, debit the whole capital value of that open space to an occupant of any one of those flats. And look at the provisions regarding agricultural land. It is obvious that the Government have not thought the matter out. When they introduced the Bill they said that land was to be valued divested of buildings, erections, and improvements, fixed and attached machinery. That is all very well as far as the building is concerned, but if your idea is to relieve industry and to get at the capital value, or any value, of unimproved land, how can you do it in an old country like this? How are you to separate the cost of draining, of fencing, of any sort of improvements that may have been made any time during the last 100 years? I venture to say that the thing is impossible, and the force of the arguments brought to bear on the Government showed them that it was impossible, and alterations have been made in the Bill which would reduce the value of this new column in the Valuation Roll almost to nothing. But this valuation upon the capital value, or dormant value, is the worst possible fallacy. It has been tried, for example, in the United States, and has resulted in making it almost impossible for anyone to keep up an open space. I will give an illustration which will be know to all your Lordships. Take a place like Holland House. According to the present system of valuation it has an annual value which is enjoyed by the owner and entered upon the Roll. But if you are going to assess the capital value of all places like Holland House, and rate upon a percentage of that, you will make it absolutely impossible for anyone to keep up any open space within any urban district at all. Again, there is no logic in the method by which railways are to be valued under this Bill. What is the difference, in essence, between the land that a railway occupies and the land occupied by a gas company, a brewery, a dock, or anything of a similar nature? Of course railways, like landlords, do not get much consideration in these days, but if it is the unimproved value of land which has to be rated, what is the reason for keeping up the present system of rating of railways? That may be right, or it may be wrong, but it would be obviously unjust, if you are going to relieve the structure of a brewery, a gas company, or something of that sort, and not to relieve the railway of the rating on what is the product of its industry.

Another objection I have to this Bill is that you have no right to put upon an unwilling local authority the expense and cost of getting information for you. If Parliament wants this information, I agree with the noble and learned Lord (Lord Robertson) that it should be paid for out of the funds set apart for Parliamentary purposes. I confess I should like to see this Bill tried. I should have liked, if there had been more time, to have suggested to the Government that it was not fair to put this proposal upon the 150 or 200 rating authorities in Scotland—that it would be much better to allow those who would like to do so to try it—and if there were time to do it, I should prefer to leave it to those who are, in my opinion, foolish enough to wish to try it, in order to see what they would make of it. Local authorities are in close touch with their constituents, and if any constituency would like to see its local authorities go to the expense and trouble of such a valuation as this, then I think they might be fairly allowed to do it. I am confident enough as to the futility of the proposals suggested by this Bill to feel sure that experience would show that they are impossible, and I am obliged also to say to your Lordships that I think, until some such experiment of that sort is made, you will never prove to the ordinary rank and file of the people that these proposals are in themselves unjust.

I repeat that if this Bill is not intended to lead to absolute revolution in our whole system of rating, it has no meaning at all, and I suggest to your Lordships that it is not reasonable or right to expect Parliament to pass a Bill of this kind until it has before it the real intentions of the Government in much greater detail than they have been put before Parliament either in the other House or in this House to-night, and therefore, although I would have preferred to see the Bill made voluntary, I am bound to say that I think the case put before your Lordships on behalf of the Resolution moved by the noble and learned Lord (Lord Robertson) is absolutely unanswerable, and at any rate it has not been answered by the noble Lord on the bench opposite (Lord Tweedmouth).

*THE EARL OF MAR AND KELLIE: My Lords, I think the objection to this Bill is not so much what it does as what it is intended to lead up to—namely, the taxation of land values. In discussing this Bill, although, as the noble Lord the First Lord of the Admiralty said, it is not a rating Bill, it is impossible to avoid touching upon the whole system of rating in Scotland which it threatens to revolutionise. The present system of valuation and rating in Scotland has grown up during a long series of years and under various Acts of Parliament; with the result that at the present day we have a system which on the whole is essentially a fair one, although of course there may be some anomalies. And, if I may do so without presumption, I should like to remind your Lordships, very shortly, of what that system is. Rent is the basis of all taxation in Scotland, and the rates are divided into two classes—there is the landlord's or owner's rate, and the tenant's or occupier's rate; and when the occupier and the owner happen to be the same individual, of course he pays both classes of rates. In the country districts the owner's rate is invariably higher than the occupier's rate. In the towns the reverse is the case. In the agricultural districts the rates are exacted on the actual rents paid and received; and in the towns, where the letting value cannot be ascertained, the value is ascertained by taking 5 or 6 per cent. on the cost of the buildings, with some deductions, the most important of which is for depreciation. Take the instance of a farm in the country districts in my own county with a rent of £100. On that £100 the landlord pays the owner's rate of £8 4s. 4d.; the tenant pays half the occupier's rate, £2 18s. 4d., and the Government, under the Agricultural Rates Act, pays the other half, £2 18s. 4d., making a total rate of £14 1s. per cent.; and that in a district where the rates are by no means high as rates go. I could give instances of farms situated in special water districts where the water rate alone is half as much again. Then, the owner has to pay income-tax; there is invariably the minister's stipend and the Heritor's assessment; and the upkeep of the building. And yet the Prime Minister says that more can be got out of the land; and this Bill is obviously intended to prepare the way. Coal and mineral rents pay rates in exactly the same way, but I only mention that in order to refute a very general but erroneous impression that royalty owners pay no contributions to the rates.

We all listened with great respect and sympathy to the eloquent speech of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack in introducing the Small Holders (Scotland) Bill, when he pointed out the evils of overcrowding in towns and the duty of all Scotsmen to do their utmost to alleviate it. I think this appeal would have been more convincing had it not been the fact that His

Majesty's Government were furthering this Bill which, if it is passed into law with its corollary of taxation of land values, must and will accentuate that evil by raising the rates in the towns generally.

There appear to me to be two reasons for overcrowding—one is an unfortunate love of squalor among some of those who are found to practise overcrowding, and the other and greater reason is inability to pay rent, the causes of which are too many to enumerate. That is why overcrowding still goes on, in spite of the fact that many of the cities and towns of Scotland are at the present time largely over built, and that empty houses, many of the tenement class, can be counted by the hundred. I have knowledge of property in a certain provincial town in Scotland where the feu duty is one penny Scots, which, in present coin of the realm, is exactly half a farthing; and even there it is impossible to build tenements to comply with modern sanitary requirements and building laws, to pay 5 per cent. on the outlay, at a less rent than £9 or £10 for a flat of three rooms. Therefore, if the site value is to be rated, obviously the landlord will protect himself by putting up the rent, and I cannot conceive any legislation which can prevent him from so doing. Again, many workmen in the smaller towns in Scotland feu ground for the building of cottages for themselves with a piece of garden, but if the workmen are to be penalised with respect to their gardens their gardens will be dispensed with, and the result will be congestion of houses in places where there would be ample air space if the workmen were not afraid, as they are not afraid at present, to take off sufficient ground for a garden. Again, it sometimes happens that for the extension of a factory or public works land has to be bought at a very high price; and it is presumed that under this Bill the price of that land will be taken into consideration in determining the site value. Thus an enterprising firm will be penalised in respect of its success in business.

Then, coming to the actual Bill itself, there seem to me to be two main objections; one is that it lays on the assessor an almost impossible task, namely, to determine whether or not the capital value of the land has been returned at a proper sum; and it will cause enormous extra expense and trouble in the preparation of the valuation roll, and very likely with no result. And this must fall exceedingly heavily on the rates. Considering the far-reaching character of the Bill, I maintain that it was inadequately discussed in another place. It is considered by many of the assessors of the most important counties in Scotland to be quite unworkable, that it will cause enormous expense both to individuals and to the rates, and that in fact it is vexatious and inequitable in the highest degree.

I feel that I have only touched the fringe of what is a very difficult and a rather tedious subject; and, if I have been somewhat discursive and sometimes not to the point, I apologise to your Lordships' House. But I think that at any rate I have been able to give a few reasons which have not been given in the debate by other noble Lords why this Bill should not be proceeded with, and why my noble friend's (Lord Robertson's) Amendment should be accepted.

LORD SALTOUN: I think your Lordships have heard several most excellent reasons why we should not read this Bill a second time, but I think we have not heard a single argument, which is worth being called an argument, from His Majesty's Government in its support, or why it should have been introduced into your Lordships House. I do not propose to detain your Lordships many minutes, but there are just one or two things to which I should like to draw your Lordships' attention, and perhaps the first is the statement by my noble friend who introduced the Bill (Lord Hamilton) that the cost of the assessing for the purposes of this Bill would be about £10,000 for Glasgow and Edinburgh. That is perfectly true, but that is simply the cost to the assessor of checking his return; the real cost which falls on the proprietor is very much greater. He has to investigate his title, he has to ascertain the exact area of his property, he has in many cases to get a surveyor to value the property, and he has to do so as if it were a property for sale by a willing seller to a willing buyer; and that valuation is to be of the land denuded of all buildings and improvements. It is almost impossible to do that at a small cost; and I think that the estimated cost has been put down for proprietors as about two guineas per site. Now, there are something like £2,500,000, which are the estimated rents for the valuers, and you can imagine for yourselves what that would work out to. The expense which comes on the proprietors is something enormous. Then a great deal of the cost of this valuation would fall upon the ratepayers. In the valuation roll of Glasgow there are 212,762 entries; and in the valuation roll of Edinburgh there are 87,000 entries. Including other burghs, in the whole of Scotland there are about 1,200,000 separate entries; and the cost of the valuation in Glasgow alone is put at about £500,000. If you take the 87,000 entries in Edinburgh, the cost of the valuation would be about £200,000; and in Aberdeen and Dundee about £100,000 each. That is an enormous expense for such a Bill as this, because it is not a Bill to enable you to make a rate, it is not even a Bill showing what the rate is, or what it is for, or anything else; I think it is really a very bad Bill indeed. There is no doubt that the Bill is the first step to carry out the idea of the late Mr. Henry George, known as the "single tax." In evidence which was taken before the Committee, Mr. Burt, one of the witnesses from Glasgow, stated that his intention was to tax the sites up to 20s. in the £, which was clearly the object of the Glasgow Bill, and must of necessity be also the object of any Bill which is brought in to succeed this. There was another gentleman, Mr. Henry, of Glasgow, who gave evidence before the Committee, and I think his evidence was chiefly in favour of the Glasgow Bill, but at the end of it he acknowledged that the expenses involved were so enormous that if a a Bill passed for the taxation of land values in Scotland it would take a generation before it came into operation. I fail to see what object there can be in bringing in a Bill for such a purpose as that.

Then, if we turn to the feus, I happen to be the owner of a very large town called Fraserburgh; and there, for instance, many of the feus, which were given off as long ago as 1300, are for about 1d. or 2d. to 6d. a site. In the course of the increase of the town these various sites have become of the greatest value to the harbour board, the town council, and other public bodies—sometimes I think there is not even a shilling upon those sites—they form a part of the streets for the harbour. Still, they pay their feu duty of 1d. per annum. To value such a site as that is impossible—it may be worth £3,000 or £4,000, but if you rate upon the value, which it would be valued upon, the tax would come to a very great deal more than 20s. in the £. Then again, suppose you were to have a brewery or a factory of any sort or kind occupying, say, 50 acres of ground, and you were also to have a farm close by or contiguous to it, and the buildings on the farm were valued at, say, £600, under the present system of rating each property is rated on the full annual value of the building, and the lands are all included and that is a very fair way of rating, but, under the proposed system they would be rated equally, because of course the land is of equal value. And the result is that the farmer, or the small landowner, or whatever he is, would be rated out of all existence simply for the purpose of assisting his richer neighbour.

I do not wish to weary your Lordships by saying anything more, but I think it is a very curious thing that during the whole of the last autumn we have seen the Solicitor-General parading all over Scotland making speeches in favour of, I think it was, the Glasgow Bill, or at all events the taxation of land values; and almost directly afterwards we have seen the Lord Advocate, who repudiates entirely what the Solicitor-General pleads for, and also the Prime Minister who in turn gives away the Lord Advocate. I do not understand it, but they still seem to be each of them members of His Majesty's Government, although they are all at loggerheads between themselves; and how they can recommend a Bill of this sort to your Lordships when they are at so great differences themselves I simply cannot understand. I hope your Lordships will support the Amendment.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I hope not to detain your Lordships many minutes, but I cannot avoid saying a few words in regard to this Bill. Ever since I have been in this House, I do not remember any instance in which a Bill of so much importance has been brought in so late in the session. This Bill was only introduced into this House on 24th August, and now we are called upon to read it a second time within twenty-four hours of the Prorogation, and I suppose it is expected that your Lordships will in that short time be able to give ample consideration to its provisions.

This Bill is a very important Bill. It is true that the noble Lord who introduced it said that in itself it was unimportant, but he admitted quite freely that it was only a preliminary to what was to come. Although in itself it provides merely machinery for valuation, the intention is that at no distant time the assessment in Scotland shall be imposed according to the principles which are laid down in the Bill. Lord Tweedmouth appeared to take a rather different line. He deprecated the importance of the Bill, and preferred that your Lordships should look at it from a literal point of view, and not with regard to its spirit.

This Bill was introduced, the noble Lord told us, in consequence of a Committee of the House of Commons on what is known as the Glasgow Bill of 1906. What was the decision of that Committee? Out of fifteen Members who were appointed to that Committee, one of whom subsequently retired, no less than eight out of the remaining fourteen were vice-presidents of the league in Glasgow which was created to promote the principles of Mr. Henry George. I can only say that if a subject such as the rating of land were referred by your Lordships to a Select Committee, I feel certain that the composition of the Committee would be very different indeed from that. What can you expect from a Committee of which eight members have already pronounced their views but a Report in accordance with their well-known opinions, resulting in a Bill such as this with which we have been called upon to deal? The Solicitor-General for Scotland was the Chairman. The Solicitor-General is most advanced in his opinions. Indeed, he has gone so far that I think he has rather alarmed some of his colleagues. He has been repudiated lately by the Prime Minister and by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but still he goes on repeating these opinions constantly whenever he has the opportunity, and at all events, it seems to me that with a prominent officer in His Majesty's Government repeating these advanced opinions it is not likely that public confidence will be increased in the fairness of the system which is to be adopted.

What is the Bill? There is not one single item of fact about it. It is hypothesis from beginning to end. Everything is non-existent. Just let us look at it. "Capital land value" means the sum which lands and heritages—

"might be expected to realise if sold by a willing seller in the open market at the time of the valuation if:—(1) divested of buildings, erections or improvements, of whatever nature on, in, or under the soil, woods, fixed or attached machinery, and work of drainage and of reclamation, making up, levelling, and the like, where the benefit thereof is unexhausted at the time of valuation."

From beginning to end there is nothing but hypotheses. In the first place, the value of these lands is said to be what they may be expected to realise "if sold by a willing seller in the open market." There has never been such a thing as a "willing seller." No one has ever proposed, or was ever foolish enough to propose to pull down all his buildings and sit down and calculate what the site might be worth. And, pray, is there anyone who would be fool enough to buy such a site under such conditions? And as for "market," there never has been any, and never will be any. They say that no buildings, erections, or improvements are to be taken into consideration. What happens? Why, you get back to the days of the Picts and Scots, and your valuation will be such a one as the Picts or Scots would have made, and your Lordships know that if they had been called upon to take a valuation they would have taken a very short road indeed, but I believe very nearly resembling that which is in the minds of some members of His Majesty's Government. And then all these things are to be "sold free from all burdens, public and private." What on earth does that mean? Private burdens. Does that mean feu duties, or what does it mean? I am perfectly unable to understand. And here you put upon the proprietor a duty which he cannot possibly fulfil. How in the world is a proprietor to arrive at any approximate estimate of what his land is worth when everything has been removed from it, and when it is entirely unlike anything which is in existence, entirely unlike his property as he knows it? And then look at the assessor's duty. I do not know what in the world these Scottish assessors are to do. They have already met, and they have said that they do not know how to conduct the valuation proposed under this Bill. Lord Hamilton said that every factor would be able quite easily to do this. I think he said his own factor could do it. I congratulate him on his factor, because he not merely knows the noble Lord's property, but he knows what is not on it, and he knows in exactly what state it was before the noble Lord was born, or any of his predecessors, and before any of them had it. He is more than an assessor, he is more than a valuer. He must indeed be one of the most able men in the world if he is able to calculate with anything approaching precision what at the present time the value of this property is.

Several questions have been asked in the course of this debate, and no answer has been given to any one of them. It seems to me that that is the course which is always pursued by His Majesty's Government when dealing with land questions, and more especially, I regret to say, when they are dealing with land questions connected with Scotland. The noble and learned Lord (Lord Robertson) asked why this benefit was to be confined to Scotland and to Scotland only. No answer of any sort or kind has been vouchsafed. It seems to me that wherever anything—I will not use the word predatory or confiscatory, or anything of that sort, but whenever any very novel propositions are under consideration, Scotland is always the *corpus vile* on which the experiment is to be tried. It is only the other day that it was proposed to place the whole of Scotland under a Land Court, and Scotland was also to have a set of Agricultural Commissioners. Why are all these benefits reserved for Scotland? It is said, I suppose, that Scotland is more advanced, and therefore is more able to imbibe these advanced notions than comparatively ignorant, but more fortunate England. But whether the Government succeed in dealing with Scotland or not, depend upon it, England's turn is coming, and it is merely that Scotland leads the van.

There is another question I should like to ask about agricultural land. Why is agricultural land brought under this Bill? I will answer that question myself, and I will tell your Lordships why it is, because although we have not been informed, I can guess, and in fact it does not take any prophet to understand that. It is because His Majesty's Government have in their mind the intention of taxing agricultural land which is in the neighbourhood of towns. They assume in their calculations that all such land is worth in capital value exactly the same. I do not know how far that calculation extends; but they will draw a great ring round a town and say: "Oh, this land is worth so many hundred pounds an acre." So it may be when the land is becoming ripe for building; but in the meantime what will be the result? There are many cases where land is let at from £2 to £3 an acre, and it is perfectly impossible to get more in the vicinity of a town. Yet they would say: "Oh, this land is worth £500 an acre, and as the interest on that is £20, we will tax you on £20 an acre." You would reply: "But I cannot get more than £2 10s." "Oh," would be the answer, "that has nothing to do with it whatever. What you have got to do is to look forward to this great advantage which you are going to get at some unknown time, and in the meantime you will pay us on £20, although you are only receiving £2 10s."

Now with regard to counties, why is agricultural land—or rather, how can agricultural land—be brought under this Bill? Mr. Shaw, the Lord-Advocate, gave this reason. He said—

> "If we exclude counties there will be an absence of information which the county has a right to expect."

Really the dicta of these law officers with regard to agricultural land questions betray their very great ignorance. Just let us see what agricultural land is. Let us imagine, for instance, a farm which has no buildings, no erections, no improvements of any kind or sort, in, on, or under the soil—that is to say, no drainage, no reclamation, in which nothing has been made up, levelled, and the like. Imagine what a valuable possession that is, and then think what is the value of that for the purposes of rating! Why, it is zero. I am not sure that it is not a minus quantity. And how, under this system, are you going to collect your rates, if you start rating from zero? I certainly have seen no attempt on the part of anyone as yet to show us how the assessment of agricultural land is to be carried out in future. But remember, it is not merely the land, but all the houses upon it. There is not one of your Lordships' houses which will be subject to valuation in future—that is to say, unless His Majesty's Government bring in a *privilegium* to tax the houses of peers. They are quite capable of it, but if they do not, all I can say is, there is no country house which will be liable for rating.

Now, my Lords, who is in favour of this Bill? That is what I want to know. The county councils and municipal authorities have had no opportunity whatever of pronouncing their opinion upon it. His Majesty's Government are always talking of their respect for the opinion of the people and so on. The parish councils, the town councils, and the county councils, I suppose, are the nearest approach we can get to the "opinion of the people." But when these town councils and other councils pronounce in favour of His Majesty's Government, then they are righteous judges—they are great people. But if they do not, then their opinion is to be entirely disregarded and set aside, or even, as in this case, not asked for.

Now, as to the petitions. I have been at a little trouble to inquire with regard to the petitions which have been addressed to the Houses of Parliament in reference to this Bill. I cannot find that there is one in favour of it; there are not many of any sort, it is true. I can only find petitions from two counties—the county of Forfar and the county of Perth. They have both petitioned against the Bill. But then there is a very remarkable case, that of the town of Greenock. The town of Greenock was very much in favour of taxing feu duties, and so long as it was supposed that this Bill was to include feu duties, Greenock was very strongly in favour of it, but when the Prime Minister announced that feu duties were not to be included, that appears to have worked a change in the opinion of Greenock, because it then turned round and petitioned against the Bill. And even in the case of Glasgow, I am not by any means certain that after the recent decision the opinion of Glasgow is so much in favour of the Bill as it was.

There is one further question which I should like to ask, and that is, why are railways and canals not included in the Bill? If you are not to reckon improvements—if you are to encourage outlay, and industry, and all these other virtuous things, why are railways not included? There is not one single bit of a railway which is not the outcome of industry. Every mile of railway has been laid down with spade labour. It is nothing but one piece of industry and utility from beginning to end. Why are you not to take into consideration the capital value of a railway? And so with canals. You cannot say that a single bit of a canal is not the product of industry. Why should not improvements be reckoned in the case of railways and canals, although they are in the case of everything else? I can tell your Lordships. First of all I will give you Mr. Shaw's reason. He says it would be rash to introduce a differentiation here in a system which has gone on for half a century. I wish Mr. Shaw had thought whether that remark might not also apply to the general valuation roll. But as a matter of fact the reason is that he knew perfectly well that if he was to abolish the rating value of railways and canals he would be injuring three-fourths of the parishes in Scotland, and he did not dare to propose such an important alteration.

Now, my Lords, I know that we have a good deal to do, and at this late hour I will not occupy your Lordships' time any longer. I can only say that your Lordships will, as I think, do very unwisely if you allow what is professedly a Bill for machinery to pass before you know what the system is which this machinery is intended to carry out.

EARL CAWDOR: My Lords, I am sure that all your Lordships who are interested in valuation and in the question of rating will agree, at all events, that those questions are of a most complex and of a most important character, that they should never be tampered with lightly or thoughtlessly, and that any changes with respect to either the valuation or the rating of land should be dealt with with the utmost care and after the greatest consideration. There are many things with respect to valuation and rating upon which, if we had had an opportunity of discussing this Bill, many of us would like to have spoken. One is that great point which we should like to eliminate from valuation if we could—namely, the element of uncertainty and of hypothesis. That is a matter of vital importance. We cannot, under the present system, entirely or even nearly get away from it, but the system suggested under this Bill would accentuate and increase the difficulty a thousandfold. And yet it is taken up lightly, as if it were a mere matter of triviality that did not signify at all.

It has been rather interesting to hear the statements made on the other side of the House. I am bound to say that so far as statements are concerned, though many of us have spoken on this side of your Lordships' House, we have not been favoured with very much by way of answer. Some distinct and clear questions were put, and no attempt of any sort or kind was made to answer them. The First Lord of the Admiralty talked of this Bill as simply and only a Valuation Bill, and as being merely intended to give the Government an opportunity of considering hereafter what they are to do with the question of rating. But the noble Lord who introduced this Bill went a little further, and admitted, in that frank and clear statement which he made to your Lordships, that there was something to follow. He did not plead for a moment that it was nothing whatever but a clear and clean Valuation Bill. He said there were things to follow, and I think your Lordships must have been struck with what he said after all, for he was very careful to guard himself against anything that might come out of this Bill as an operative part of the Bill. He knew, and he admitted, that this Bill was bound to be followed by legislative enactments fundamentally altering the rating system, and he guarded himself in advance against anything that might be suggested in the future.

But, we had another statement in another place also quite clear and emphatic upon this point. The Lord Advocate, made no attempt to conceal or to deny that this Bill was not, as it has been described this evening, simply and only a Valuation Bill. He said—

> "This is not only a Valuation Bill; it is of course to be followed by a great deal more."

If it was not he would not have been introducing it and supporting it in another House. Therefore, we have it perfectly clear that this Bill is intended simply as a stepping-stone in the direction of some great change. It is idle to suggest that it was ever introduced for any other purpose. Who would go to the trouble and expense of recasting the valuation system of this country for the purpose of introducing into the valuation roll of Scotland a column—I think No. 8—which, as the noble and learned Lord (Lord Robertson) said, simply demolished and got rid of all the other columns? Would anyone think of going into that, and then coming to your Lordships and saying: "This is all that is going to be done, and it will lead to nothing else"? But we know very well from outside of your Lordships' House roughly what it is that is intended. We have asked—and so far asked in vain for any idea of the system which the Government had in their minds in bringing this suggested legislation before your Lordships' House. It was suggested by my noble friend Lord Rosebery the other day that some of these measures are not intended as legislative enactments—that they are not brought in seriously with a view to legislation, but merely in order to be used as weapons which the Government think may be used for political purposes against your Lordships in the country during the autumn session.

I was interested to note that the two noble Lords who spoke from the other side appeared to be most anxious to annex my noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh to their view. One of the only excuses for their Bill was that the noble Lord—whose abilities and whose knowledge of Scotland and of Scottish affairs we all recognise—had said or written something which apparently it was thought might be taken to support the Government's action in this matter. Their chief defence of their Bill was that the noble Lord had some years ago signed a very able minority Report of a Royal Commission, on which, I think, he and I sat for five years—I regret to state that at the end of those five years I was not able to concur in the conclusions of my noble friend. I do not for a moment set up my authority as anything that can compete with that of the noble Lord, but the noble Lord who spoke on the other side omitted to notice at all that in that Commission there was a majority Report as well as a minority Report, and in digging up this Commission they dug up the minority Report only.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: I beg the noble Lord's pardon; I especially quoted the majority Report also.

Earl CAWDOR: I do not remember the quotation by the noble Lord of the majority Report, but if he quoted it I will undertake to say that he found nothing in the majority Report in favour of this Bill.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: I beg the noble Lord's pardon——

Earl CAWDOR: Has the noble Lord got the passage?

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: I have not it here at the moment.

Earl CAWDOR: That is rather inconvenient, but I will vouch for this—that the majority voted absolutely dead against the valuation of sites. I can only say that I was one of those who signed it, and I know that what I say is correct, and that it will take the noble Lord a long time to find anything in support of the proposals of this Bill in that majority Report. There is no doubt whatever that the difference between us entirely was whether we agreed or did not agree as to the valuation of sites—the separate valuation of sites and buildings—and the noble Lord signed a minority Report in favour of that separation while the majority Report was against it. If the noble Lord can show me that I am wrong I shall be much obliged to him.

I was rather amused at the evident anxiety of noble Lords opposite to annex my noble friend, and they made a great deal of his supposed support of the scheme in this Bill, but I do not think, after your Lordships had heard the reply of my noble friend, that there was much left in the contention that he was in favour of their scheme. The noble Lord washed his hands of it, and said that it was absolutely wrong from beginning to end. Therefore, as far as my noble friend is concerned, we need not place very much reliance upon the support he is supposed to have given to the Bill now before your Lordships' House.

In the course of the discussion before that Royal Commission many schemes were before us—definite schemes of how some plan of this kind could be carried out. Some of them were very moderate. But what happened to them? The members of the Commission who signed the Minority Report which His Majesty's Government seem to think justifies this Bill, looked into all those schemes as members of the Commission, and in the end they described every one of them as impracticable and impossible, and my noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh will remember perfectly well that while he thought some of them justified what he considered a proper thing to do in the way of separation of sites and buildings on the site, he discarded absolutely every scheme which was put forward to show how the proposal could be carried out.

What is the scheme we have to-day? We have none from the Government—we have no inkling of what their intentions are—but we know the extravagant schemes that have been put forward. We know how far some of His Majesty's Government's supporters are prepared to go. We know that what they are aiming at through this Bill is simply this: That all rates are to be put hereafter on the unimproved site value. That is the aim and the object of it. Every improvement of buildings and so forth that has been put upon the land is, in their view, to be exempt from rates. And yet we are told that this is simply and only a Valuation Bill! Is it not trading a little bit on your Lordships' common sense to ask you to believe anything of the kind? Is it not trying us rather high, when we are supposed to be able to swallow an allegation of that kind. With regard to the extreme scheme which I have just mentioned to your Lordships, we might ask whoever may be going to speak on behalf of His Majesty's Government whether they would tell us if they have any scheme of their own, or at any rate whether they disclaim that extreme scheme. At all events we should then know something about the Government's intentions, and Lord Hamilton would feel that as far as he was concerned he need not be in any trepidation as to not being able to accept the Government's scheme when introduced. Surely your Lordships have a right to know something of what is proposed in dealing with this vast and important question. There can be, and there is, no doubt that what is aimed at is a fundamental change. Why should we be kept in the dark as to that change in every respect? We are to ask local authorities to go to great expense. We are practically to show that we mean to move in the direction of a fundamental change in valuation and rating, and yet we are, at this eleventh hour, to be prohibited from knowing in the slightest degree what His Majesty's Government propose or intend. At all events if we get no information on this subject we shall know that we have no guidance of any sort or kind to receive from the Government, and we may fairly and justly ask your Lordships and the country not to follow blind guides who have no idea what course they are steering.

There were several questions asked by the noble and learned Lord who moved the Amendment. I do not know that any of them have been answered in the slightest degree. First of all, we should like to know, if this Bill is to be so good for Scotland, why it does not extend to England? Secondly, is it intended to extend it to England in the next session of Parliament? And last, not least, I come to the question of the date of the introduction of the Bill. I do not think the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack will deny that this Bill is aiming at fundamental changes of very far-reaching interest and importance. If that is so—and I take it that it must be so—is it decent, is it in accordance with the dignity and respect of your Lordships' House, that on the day before the conclusion of our Parliamentary business, in a session that has lasted from February until the end of August, this Bill should be laid upon the Table of your Lordships' House? We always have been, and I hope we always shall be, able to look upon the Leader of the House and upon the noble Lord on the Woolsack, as the guardians of the dignity and independence of your Lordships' House. I ask them, do they think that in dealing with your Lordships in this way, putting a Bill of this importance upon the Table to-day, and asking us to race it through all its stages in the course of the next forty-eight hours, they are respecting the dignity and independence of your Lordships' House? I ask them to consider a little that dignity. There is nothing, I think, that can so much depreciate your Lordships' influence and the dignity of your Lordships' House as for it to be supposed that noble Lords in the high position of those I have referred to think it not unbecoming to ask you to race through measures of vast importance, when it is known perfectly well to them and to the country that proper discussion and proper consideration is absolutely impossible. Must it not be the fact that this Bill is a sham? Can it be meant for anything else? The noble Lord on the Woolsack will not suggest to us, I am perfectly certain, if he is going to speak, that it is possible properly and decently to debate this subject in the course of half an evening at the fag-end of a session. Is this Bill meant as practically a Bill intended to be passed this session? If so, why is it brought up at this moment? Is it not a fact that it is meant, like some others, merely as "a filling up of the cup"—as something that will enable Party politicians to go about the country denouncing your Lordships for thwarting the people's will?

I trust your Lordships will accept the Amendment moved by the noble and learned Lord, Lord Robertson. He invited your Lordships to resolve not to proceed with a measure which would have no operative effect. My Lords, that statement is justified out of the mouth of the noble Lord the First Lord of the Admiralty. The operative effect is a thing to be thought of hereafter—not to be intimated to the country, not to be intimated to your Lordships' House. I doubt if it even exists in any shape or form of an operative kind in the mind of His Majesty's Government. This Bill would cause great expense. I am not going to argue the question of expense, but no one doubts that the expense must be very great. It would certainly unsettle the mind of the country with regard to valuation and assessment, and it would, I believe, as the noble and learned Lord's Amendment says, prejudice your Lordships unduly in dealing with this great question hereafter. If you pass this Bill you will be said to have accepted a principle which is going to lead you no one knows where, but from which you will never be able to recede. I hope that your Lordships, therefore, will not pass the Second Reading of this Bill, but will accept the Amendment which has been moved by the noble Lord (Lord Robertson).

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: My Lords, the most pointed question which the noble Earl put to me in the course of his speech was with regard to bringing this Bill to this House at this time of the year.

EARL CAWDOR: On this day.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I do not quite appreciate the difference between the time of the year and the day. What I was going to say was that the general complaint had been made by the noble Marquess (the Marquess of Lansdowne) before with regard to the condition of business in Parliament. For my own part, I have always held only one opinion about it, and I will not dwell upon it, because I gave expression to it the other day. My own belief is that Parliament cannot transact properly one-half of the business that has to come before it. That I believe to be a truth of general application, and I say that this inconvenience will continue, and must continue, together with a great deal more which is not merely inconvenient, but is deleterious to the public interest, until Parliament consents, being unable to do all the business itself, to leave the business to others who have got the time and leisure to do it. I must also say—and then I will pass from this part of the subject—that the noble Marquess, Lord Lansdowne, a year or two ago, when he was leading the Government, was assailed with exactly the same reproach—I think, in an aggravated form—with just as much reason, and although he did not give the same answer that I have given, at the same time I think he will admit that he adopted what I may call an apologetic attitude. I do not reproach him, but I do not see why we should be so severely reproached now for a state of things which is inseparable from the conditions under which we have to do our work here and in the other House.

With regard to the Bill, I shall not speak upon it at any great length, though I will endeavour to meet the points which have been made as far as I can, because if rumour is not very much at fault, the doom of this Bill had been predestined before this debate commenced. I deeply regret it, and my own belief is that your Lordships will see on cooler reflection perhaps that the Bill is a necessary preliminary to any kind of rating reform that you desire. However, let me try, at all events, since apparently this bantling of ours is about to be destroyed, to ensure that there shall be no misunderstanding as regards what the Bill is, nor as regards its ulterior purpose.

In the first place, the Bill is simplicity itself, taken alone. The Bill is a Bill to add to the Valuation Roll a column which shall contain the site value—the capital value of the site—as apart from the buildings, if any, upon it. That is the Bill. It does not rate anybody, or assess anybody, or alter anyone's rights. All that it does is, I agree, with a view to ulterior legislation. I do not see why anybody should want to deny it—it is our object, with a view to ulterior legislation it proposes to value the capital value of the site. Now that being the nature of the Bill, I have not heard—except from the noble Lord, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, whose objection was that it was the capital value instead of the annual value of the site—any reasons why the valuation of a site should not be a useful thing of itself. And for very obvious reasons, your Lordships must be aware that there has been considerable dissatisfaction with the present system of rating from many different points of view. There are many persons of a most conservative disposition who disapprove of the present system of rating.

Let me give your Lordships some illustrations. There are sites kept in the centre of cities which are not built upon, and which are rated only at the annual valuation of what they are let for. It may be that a butcher takes them for grazing at £3 or £4 an acre. Of course there is nothing wrong in that, but the fact is that that land, as compared with the land around it, is land of very great value, and the person who owns it does not pay upon his property any annual contribution to the rates of the town comparable in the least degree with that which is paid by the adjoining owners who have houses built, and who have realised their building value. That was considered to be a hardship by so eminent an authority as the Majority Report of the Royal Commission upon Housing which was appointed in the year 1885. There can be no doubt that it is a proper subject for consideration, and in my opinion—your Lordships may not agree with it—it is not fair that a man should have land, say an acre, worth £1,000, for which he only gets £3 a year rent, and should be rated on only £3 a year, while an adjoining owner will be rated upon the same amount of land at £50 or £60. The one man is as well off as the other, and I think you ought to have regard to the property, and the value of the property, which different ratepayers have. Let me take another illustration. I take the case of land which might be brought into building value, but has not been because it is being held back—it is on the fringe of a town. I am not complaining of the owner of it doing as he thinks fit, but I think that he also ought, in fairness as between the other owners of property and himself, to contribute, not upon the use to which the land is put, but upon the value of the land—the approximate value, at all events—as compared with the other land round about. These opinions of mine may be right or wrong, but at all events there is nothing revolutionary about them. What they mean is fair play to the ratepayers. But let me give you another illustration. In the first place I venture to say that for the purpose I have indicated there must, in the first instance, be some valuation of the site. Unless you have a valuation of the site you cannot, under any circumstances, adjust, as between the different owners of property, their fair shares of the burden of the rates. There is another purpose it might be used for. It might be used, for example, in those cases in which the property of a particular owner, or a particular street, has been enormously enhanced by improvements effected at the cost of the whole town. So much so, that that has been already recognised by legislation in this country. The Glasgow Act, the Manchester Act, two or three Acts of the London County Council—all these have imposed charges for "betterment." These Acts have been sanctioned by both Houses of Parliament, for the very purpose of obtaining for the community some portion of the value created by the improvements which they themselves have made. These things are not matters of speculation or doubt; they have been embodied in clauses in Acts of Parliament, because they represent the fair play and commonsense of the community. But you cannot do that easily or conveniently unless you have a system of valuation of site values as well as of the annual value; because the characteristic of valuation by annual value is that it takes the subject as a whole, and that really the nature of the buildings erected upon the land governs the value of the total subject as well as the value of the land itself.

I have now given to your Lordships illustrations of the things certainly which are in my mind concerning the use which I am contemplating this Bill may have, when I am suggesting that there shall be a valuation of the site as apart from the valuation of the buildings upon it. The noble Earl (Earl Cawdor) asked what was the plan of His Majesty's Government. Surely it is impracticable and unreasonable to ask us to give any definite plan at the present time. It is indeed difficult and impracticable to say what the particular proposals will be, beyond the one thing. It is difficult for us to say anything further until we know what the valuation is. The information that we desire is the information to be procured by this very Bill which your Lordships are about to reject. And when the noble Lord asks me to give some sort of undertaking that we will not be parties to dishonest proposals——

EARL CAWDOR: I did not say anything about "dishonest proposals."

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I did not mean that the noble Lord had said anything with conscious discourtesy; but I think he suggested that there was some sort of apprehension that we were not going to deal fairly with property.

EARL CAWDOR: I merely sketched out exactly what I understood to be the extreme scheme of the extreme persons who wished these things carried out; I did not suggest whether they were honest or dishonest. I only asked the noble and learned Lord, when I had sketched them out, whether he disclaimed them or not.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I understood that substantially we were asked to disclaim what may fairly be called Mr. Henry George's projects; they were mentioned in particular. I will tell my noble friend my view. I have not consulted my colleagues about Mr. Henry George's projects, but I will tell him my view of them as I understand them. I believe that Mr. Henry George proposed that all taxation should be put upon land values, apart from buildings and improvements, and that they should be taxed until they were taxed out of existence. That, certainly, was the proposal of Mr. Henry George at one stage—I do not know whether it was until the end. But it is perfectly obvious that proposals of that kind are not only unjust but absolutely absurd. If the noble Earl wants my opinion on the subject, that is it. It is ridiculous — and I should think that nobody would ever seriously ask any Government to disclaim ideas of that kind.

I have told your Lordships the views which have led us to ask for a Valuation Bill. As I have already said, the Bill itself cannot impose any rating. But, we have been asked, why not a Bill for England also? Well, why not? I do not see any reason why there should not be, and I anticipate that there will be a Bill for valuation in England. But the noble Earl may not be aware that the technical system of rating would require some alteration before a Bill for England could be introduced. But there is no intention of differentiating, or making Scotland the *corpus vile*. What is proposed is to have a valuation, and then we shall all learn and know thoroughly what are the values, and so be enabled to deal with them. I will only say this: that there is really no ground for apprehension that our operations will be of a predatory character.

Having explained our view, I make this comment—that really I have not heard any criticism of a hostile kind against valuation *per se*—not a word. The noble Lord (Lord Balfour of Burleigh) whom I disclaim any intention of annexing—I never endeavoured to annex him to my opinions and I think I should be very foolish if I tried—so far from being, as I understood his speech, opposed to the Second Reading of this Bill, intimated that he would have liked to have the Bill read a second time, and then to have introduced the principle of local option, all of which is a matter of fair discussion. But if this Bill is of such a dreadful and dishonest character—or dangerous character—the noble Lord, upon whom the noble Earl (Earl Cawdor) pronounced so proper a panegyric, does not mind differing apparently from the noble and learned Lord (Lord Robertson), who has moved that this Bill shall not be read a second time, because Lord Balfour of Burleigh said that he wished it could have been read a second time. And Scotland will appreciate the fact that Lord Balfour of Burleigh wished this Bill to be read a second time, but was not allowed to have his own way.

What then is the objection? The objection is, not to the merits of the Bill itself, but to something that is supposed to be coming on. It is the belief and apprehension in their Lordships' minds, which I am afraid no language of mine will dispel—and I have not the least intention of endeavouring to dispel it because I am afraid it is an inveterate opinion—that behind this Bill is some scheme of a gross and reprehensible character—to put it plainly, some scheme of a dishonest character. That is the ground of your Lordships' objection to the Bill. There is nothing in the Bill which says so; the Bill itself cannot be open to any such construction; and your Lordships object to it, not because you think the Bill itself is wicked, but because we are wicked. That is the real reason why you are going to refuse a Second Reading to this Bill. I have no observation to make further on that subject, beyond this—that if the Bill were read a second time, no rating scheme could be imposed without your Lordships' consent and approbation. I should have thought it was time enough to take exception to the rating proposals when you saw them and that in order to enable His Majesty's Government to consider the question of rating—admittedly a vexed question and one that requires legislation, because the late Government appointed a Commission on this very subject—you would have no objection in the meantime to a Valuation Bill which would give us the information which we desire. Those would have been my ideas. I do not know whether we are regarded as an assortment of birds of prey who cannot be trusted; but if that be the view, it is our demerits, and not the demerits of the Bill, which come into question this evening.

I have nothing more to say with regard to the Bill. I feel that it would have been disrespectful if I had not offered my views to your Lordships, but I am at the same time aware that it is profoundly improbable that your Lordship's views will be influenced by whatever argument I put forward. But of this I am perfectly certain, that in Scotland especially, and in England, I think, too, there is a strong sense that the system of rating ought to be altered and that it is not fair that persons who have property of great value, because it is not built upon should escape taking the fair share of the burden with others. To remedy that state of things is the main and fundamental purpose of this Bill, and I am perfectly certain that that principle will triumph, being a just principle against which no man can really argue.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, the noble and learned Lord very naturally began by addressing himself to the complaint made by my noble friend Earl Cawdor as to the moment at which this Bill is presented to your Lordship's House; and the noble and learned Lord gave us, I think not for the first time, many reasons in justification of this procedure. He believes that under our present system the congestion of business which annually takes place is inevitable, and then he proceeds to the argument which I always expect, the argument which, speaking familiarly, I may describe as the *tu quoque* argument, that if noble Lords opposite are sinners we, too, have been sinners in our time. Well, my Lords, I admit it. The abuse is a long standing abuse, but I venture to say that never has it become so intolerable as it has during the last year and this. I challenge noble Lords opposite to search the records of this House and see whether they can find anything approaching to the state of things which has arisen during the month through which we are now passing. Let me remind your Lordships that we have, within the compass of, I think, a week or ten days, been discussing the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill, the English Small Holdings Bill, and this Bill, to say nothing of a most important measure dealing with patents, with which we struggled in the early hours of the morning two nights ago; and I may throw in the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill as a sort of extra. And I say of this present Bill in particular that I do not believe you can find any Bill of this great importance having been presented to this House within forty-eight hours of the Prorogation.

Whether our system of rating is a perfect one or not—and I am not going to say it is a perfect system—I am here to maintain that this Bill is far too serious a measure for your Lordships to read a second time at such a moment as this. The First Lord of the Admiralty extenuated the offence, if it be one, by telling us that after all this was really a small matter. I ask your Lordships to take note of those words, and we shall see whether, when the First Lord of the Admiralty takes part, as he no doubt will, in the autumn campaign with which we are threatened, he will refer to this Bill as a "small matter," and to the conduct of the House of Lords as being immaterial. Another defence was offered by the noble Lord who took charge of the Bill; it was a defence with which we are not unfamiliar as coming from the other side of the House. He assured us that his colleagues were incapable of predatory conduct, and he gave His Majesty's Ministers another of those testimonials which the President of the Board of Agriculture has been bestowing upon them nightly for some weeks past. But I am afraid we cannot be re-assured by these testimonials to the uprightness and integrity of the Government. We have to consider what this Bill contains, and also what it points to.

Now, my Lords, as to the contents of the Bill. I challenge contradiction when I say that it does three things—it imposes upon the officials who are entrusted with the business of these valuations a most arduous, important, and novel duty. They are to be given the task—an impossible task it seems to me—of disentangling from the value of the land the value of the buildings and other improvements which are to be found upon the land. That, in a country where the condition of land as a source of wealth has been so profoundly modified by human action generation after generation, is, I believe, an impossible task for anyone to perform, You may try, but you will have to fall back in the end upon conjecture and hypothesis. That is the duty which you are asked to throw upon a class of officials who, as my friends from Scotland will certainly tell you, are already fully burdened with official duties.

Then I challenge contradiction again when I say that it will throw upon the owners of land a very invidious and difficult duty. They are to be called upon—and remember, to be called upon under penalties—to declare the site value of the property which they own. That they should be able to do this without going to great expense, without calling in expert advice, I for one refuse to believe, and therefore I say that in the case of the owners of land great responsibilities, and probably very considerable expense, will be inevitably imposed. And, thirdly, I say that I remain altogether unconvinced by the arguments which have been brought forward to show that this will not be a very expensive measure for the ratepayers of Scotland. The noble Lord who introduced the Bill made light of the question of expense. He gave us some figures. I think he mentioned £10,000 for Glasgow and Edinburgh. I see in one of the interesting documents which have been circulated lately that in the Valuation Roll of Glasgow alone there are 212,000 entries. In Edinburgh there are upwards of 87,000 separate entries, and in the counties of Scotland nearly 600,000 individual entries will call for consideration. Including other burghs, it is estimated that at least

1,500,000 separate subjects which presently appear in the valuation roll will have to be separately valued. How that is going to be done at the rate of £10,000 for the city of Glasgow and the city of Edinburgh passes my comprehension altogether. Therefore, I take it that it can incontestably be shown that upon the assessors, upon the owners of land, and upon the ratepayers of Scotland, this Bill will inevitably throw a very heavy burden.

Now, my Lords, why is this to be done? All this expense and trouble will be purely vexatious unless this Bill is a prelude to a fundamental alteration in our system of taxation, and the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack very frankly admits that it is a prelude to such a fundamental alteration. It is admitted that this new policy has not even yet been thought out. The noble Lord in charge of the Bill admitted that with great frankness. But, other people have thought it out, and there are certain conclusions to which they have come. I will venture to enumerate them in the fewest possible words. We believe that it is possible to show, in the first place, that this new policy means the abandonment of the principle that liability to taxation should be determined by the ability of the person who is taxed to pay. In the next place, we believe that the tendency of this policy will be to throw the whole burden of local taxation on one class, and that a class, remember, which is already very heavily burdened indeed. Again, we believe that this policy will tend to distribute the burden of taxation unevenly and inequitably between some members of that class and others. Further, it seems to us that this heavy blow will fall upon the present owners of landed property, because hereafter those who acquire landed property will, of course, make allowances for the new burden thrown upon the soil, and will be governed by the knowledge that that burden is likely to fall upon them in the price which they offer. And, lastly, we are convinced that this new system will substitute for a basis founded upon solid facts a basis founded upon mere conjecture. We may be wrong upon some of these points, but we believe that all these propositions are sustainable in argument, and therefore it seems to us that a measure of this kind, a measure likely to lead to any such results as this, is not one that this House ought to be called upon to discuss in the few hours of the session which remain to us. Again we cannot exclude from consideration the fact that this policy was condemned by the Select Committee of 1892, again by the Royal Commission of 1901, and certainly by the majority of the witnesses who appeared before the Committee of last year. It appears to us that that policy has been supported by certain arguments which are unsound at the root. One of those is, I feel bound to say, that which fell from the noble and learned Lord upon the Woolsack just now, when he told us that all over the country land which was ripe for building, and which, as building ground, was likely to acquire a great value, was being withheld by the owners. I believe that the owners of building sites exercise ordinary prudence in the matter of disposing of their land for building—that self-interest is, after all, the motive which probably prevails with them, and that it is not the case that upon any large scale land is systematically withheld, when it is ripe for building, by the owners thereof.

Then, there is another fallacy which I think I have detected in the arguments to which we have listened—I mean the fallacy that the increased value which accrues to land, for example in the neighbourhood of great cities, i due entirely to municipal expenditur and to the exertions of the surrounding community. That argument leaves out altogether the fact that if there is increased value, it is in great measure, if not mainly, due to the expenditure of the owners of the land upon buildings and other property upon it. I venture to suggest to the House that the only justification for pressing this measure on during the last hours of the session would be that His Majesty's Government saw their way to the adoption of some distinct policy in reference to this question, and if such a policy is not within sight, there can be no immediate hurry in passing this Bill.

I will make one observation of general application before I sit down , and it is this—that in my opinion, if this House is to blame, it will not be for refusing to proceed with the consideration of this Bill, but because it has, in the case of other Bills put forward by His Majesty's Government, allowed those Bills to go through under conditions which rendered it absolutely impossible to discuss them adequately. There never was a stronger case than that of the Patents Bill, to which I referred just now. There is a Bill affecting great commercial interests in this country, and we are called upon to discuss it at a moment when many noble Lords who speak with authority upon the question are not here, and when it is simply impossible for us to give adequate consideration to the views which the different branches of trade have expressed, and desired to express, with regard to it.

I take note of the observation that was let fall by the First Lord of the Admiralty. He told us that in his opinion there was only one remedy for the condition of things which confronted us He said, "Let us carry over the Bills from one session to another." That is a very important admission made by the noble Lord. I venture to think that it is only by resorting to some step of this kind that we shall be able to avoid what I cannot help stigmatising as the scandal of these inadequate discussions. I believe that it is only by the adoption of some such policy as that that the Houses of Parliament will be able to do properly the work of revision which belongs sometimes to the one House and sometimes to the other. No body of business men in this country—or in any civilised country, I believe—would attempt to deal with their own private affairs under the conditions with which we now attempt to deal with the affairs of a great country and a great Empire. Therefore, my Lords, if we refuse to read this Bill a second time this evening, I trust it will be understood that we are in reality only doing that which the First Lord of the Admiralty has suggested that we should do—deferring the further consideration of this Bill and its consequences until a more opportune moment.

The Marquess of Lansdowne.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, I must congratulate my noble friend upon the extreme ingenuity of his last suggestion. He has discovered that my noble friend (Lord Tweedmouth) has invented a method of getting out of the difficulties which are cast upon us, as I maintain, by the conditions under which we have to do our work. I have never doubted or denied those difficulties. During the last few days I have often expressed my regret that they should have occurred, and I feel with my noble friend who has just sat down (the Marquess of Lansdowne) that it is highly important—nay, very necessary—that the Government and Parliament should consider the best method of dealing with difficulties of that kind. But what that method may be I cannot say. My views are not quite so much matured as those of my noble friend the First Lord of the Admiralty, but I can assure my noble friends opposite that I feel that they have a grievance. I have said so several times, and am sorry to repeat my words again, but, as far as I am concerned, I shall be very glad to consider and to concur in any satisfactory constitutional measures which may tend to relieve difficulties of this kind. If I say no more upon that part of the speech of my noble friend opposite, I hope he will not think it is because I underrate the importance of his observations, but merely because we have been discussing this question, as was most natural, upon all the Bills which have been before us during the last two or three days, and it is unnecessary that we should prolong that discussion at the present moment.

Now, my Lords, I am not an expert in this matter. I know nothing of Scottish law, or of the Scottish system of administration. I speak, therefore, with the very greatest diffidence upon the subject, and I hope that noble Lords from Scotland will be good enough to pardon me if I make any very stupid remarks. But, I do not think that my noble friend who has just sat down (the Marquess of Lansdowne) has any justification for most of the accusations which he made against this Bill. He said that it imposed an impossible work upon the officials who were to carry it out. He repeated the word "impossible," and that, I think, was his statement. I do not think that that statement is borne out by the experience of other places. I believe that a valuation upon these principles has now for a considerable time been carried out in the Australian Colonies, and it certainly has not been found impossible to carry it out there.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Those are new countries.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: And if it is not impossible to carry out such a system in those Colonies, why it should be assumed that it would be altogether impossible to carry it out in Scotland is more than I can say. Then my noble friend says it will lead to a vast expense. My noble friend the First Lord of the Admiralty, in his speech made earlier in the evening, quoted the statement of a very competent person who stated that he would do this work for London for £25,000 down and £5,000 a year. That, my Lords, is not a very extravagant amount for a great, populous, and rich city like London, and if that statement be correct, as I believe it to be, I do not think you will find that the expense for Scotland would be as great as my noble friend has sketched out. But with respect to the difficulty of doing this thing, may I refer to the Minority Report of the Urban Rating Sites Value Commission, because I find there this statement—

> "On the whole we are disposed to think that the valuation of sites, sufficiently accurate for the purpose, and not inferior to the present valuation of hereditaments, could be made without undue labour and expense."

That was the opinion of those competent persons.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: As I have more than once said, it is on annual value, not capital value.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: That, my Lords, may no doubt be a sufficient answer, but that is the statement contained there, and those words that my noble friend has mentioned do not appear. I do not for a moment doubt that my noble friend is correct.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I beg the noble Lord's pardon, but the whole tenor of the Report was dealing with the annual value, and we condemned the other system.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, one point has been made a great deal in this discussion. You have said, Why do you not apply this system to England? We have had very lately a new phenomenon which I never expected to see, namely, Scotsmen anxious and eager to apply the English system to Scotland. I have previously found, on the contrary, that they thought everything Scottish was right and most things English were wrong. But the reason why we have not applied this Bill to England is very simple—because the whole system of valuation in this country is different from that in Scotland. Most of your Lordships who have attended to public affairs for any considerable time are aware that there has been with successive Governments for the last ten or twenty years a desire to deal with this question of valuation, and that they have never been able to do it. We hope to be able to deal with it, but it would not be possible to apply to England the exact system applicable to Scotland, nor to apply to Scotland the exact system applicable to England. I do not think there is much, therefore, in that criticism.

There has been in the course of this debate a great tendency to raise all sorts of bogies. It has been admitted, over and over again, that this measure itself is a very simple one, but that what you are afraid of is what is coming after it and what it will lead to, and we have even had hints that it is a preliminary step to the adoption of the system of the late Mr. Henry George. I have been accustomed for a long time to hear bogies of this sort put about, but they do not very much affect me. I would venture to say for myself, at all events, that many years ago I read the book of Mr. Henry George, and a very interesting and curious book it was; but I am bound to say that Mr. Henry George did not convince me either of the truth of his premise or of the wisdom of his conclusions. And, therefore, your Lordships may be satisfied that at all events

I have not at the back of my head any system founded on "Progress and Poverty." But I think your Lordships will make a mistake if you throw out this Bill on Second Reading. The only reason—the only substantial reason as it seems to me—the only reason that deserves consideration, that has been put before you at the present time, is the question of time. Upon that I can only make the apology that I have made, but I believe, especially after the time this debate has taken and the arguments which have been employed, that the Vote given to-night will beyond question be taken by the country to relate not to any question of time, but to such improvement in the system of valuation as may follow upon the Bill.

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Proposed words inserted, and Resolution agreed to.

IRISH LAND (No. 2) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD DENMAN: My Lords, this is not such an important nor such a controversial measure as the one which we have just been discussing, and I hope to be able in a very few minutes to give a few details of the purport of what this Bill proposes to enact. Clause 1 is to carry out a section of the Act of 1903, and Clause 2 proposes to amend another section of the same Act. Now Clause 3, Subsection 3, of the Land Act says this—

> "Or if any land comprised in an estate by the owner of an estate, there shall be reserved in the prescribed manner to the Commission the exclusive right of mining and taking minerals and digging and searching for minerals on or in that land, and the said right shall be disposed of by the Commission in manner hereafter to be provided by Parliament."

It was decided in a case tried before the Irish Courts that the Land Commissioners have no power to dispose of or deal with those rights until authorised to do so by Act of Parliament. That is the reason for Clause 1 of the Bill. Clause 2 deals with an entirely different matter. I am very much averse to saying anything that might hurt the feelings of any noble Lords opposite, and therefore I am very careful in passing any criticism on the Land Act of 1903; but I am informed that under it injustice may arise and has even arisen in some cases, and I must again inform your Lordships what the clause is. Subsection 4 of Clause 54 says—

> "Every instrument, mortgage or charge on the holding executed after the commencement of this Act, other than a charge under any Public Works Act, shall be registered under the Local Registration and Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, as a burden affecting that holding, and, if not so registered within three months from the date of execution by the mortgagor or chargeant, or, in the case of a charge created by will or codicil, within six months from the death of the testator, shall be null and void."

I think one probably requires to be either an Irishman or a lawyer, or probably both, to get a proper grasp of particular clauses in Irish Land Acts, but roughly what might arise is this: If people neglect to prove a will or the executors neglect to carry out their duties within a prescribed time the beneficiary under the will may fail to get the benefit to which he is entitled. I am told it might easily happen that a chargeant might not know of a charge in his favour and might lose it. It is proposed by Clause 2 to remedy this defect. Going back to Clause 1, I gathered earlier in the session from some remarks which fell from Lord Londonderry that he feared that the already very hardly worked Estates Commissioners might have further work put upon them by the provisions of the Bill. I have been careful to make inquiries on that point, and I am informed it is not contemplated that the ordinary staff of the Estates Commissioners will be employed in connection with the Bill, and that the regular officers of the Land Purchase Act will not be in any way interfered with. It does not confer any additional powers or duties upon the Estates Commissioners, and it is not expected that any additional staff will be required to deal with what will be enacted by this Bill. The Estates Commissioners will merely give prospecting or other licences to companies or persons proposing to take leases or mining rights. The powers conferred by Subsection 2, Clause 1, of making borings and other experiments will, it is expected, be carried out in association with mining companies. Therefore, I do not think any further duties will fall or any further demands of time be made upon the Estate Commissioners under this Bill. That is all I have to say except that, if there is no serious opposition or if there are no Amendments of a drastic nature contemplated, I trust you will allow me, not for my own convenience, but for the convenience of the House, to take this Bill through all its stages to-night.

Moved, "That the Bill be read 2ª."—(*Lord Denman.*)

LORD ASHBOURNE: The noble Lord has clearly, fairly, and distinctly stated the objects of this Bill. I do not intend to offer it any opposition at all. By the first clause it is desired to develop and carry out the power of dealing with mines and mineral rights given under the Act of 1903. That was amended in the House of Commons at the instance of the Attorney-General for Ireland, I think with an anxious desire to do what was wished by those who criticised the clause. That is the more important clause, and I have no criticism to offer in connection with it. The second clause deals with a very technical matter, of which the noble Lord had expressed much regret, because he was neither an Irishman nor a lawyer, he could not give sufficient explanation. I am not satisfied with its present position, and, on a review of the position, I am not satisfied with the way in which it was left by the Act of 1903. I do not propose, however, to discuss that now. I think, under the drafting of Section 54 of the Act of 1903, it is possible that certain injustice may be done to those who have charges under wills and instruments. It is possible that some injustice has already been done. An honest effort is being made by the second clause of this Bill to try and make that clause in the Act of 1903 more careful and equitable. I am disposed to think those efforts are well meant, and that to a moderate extent they may be successful, but in my opinion they are not adequate. I would have been very glad if there had been some time at our disposal and if I had had the opportunity of communicating with the Judge who is at the head of local registration of title in Ireland, and asking his opinion on the matter and what Amendments he would desire to make it more safe and work more accurately and with less liability to injustice; but that opportunity has not been afforded, and therefore I have arrived at the conclusion that the fairest thing to do is to make a moderate Amendment, which I have no doubt the noble Lord will assent to, by increasing the six months to twelve months. The original way in which it stood when the Bill came in was that the chargeant claiming under a will should register his claim within six months of the death. Of course that was very drastic, because a man with a claim under a will might never have heard of the death, the will, or the charge. It was therefore unreasonable to say that he should register his claim within six months of the death. I am of opinion that it is rather fine to say that he must register his claim within six months of probate; but the only Amendment I now suggest is to make the six months in the Bill twelve months. It is not a perfect period and I do not say it will not do injustice, but it will give a man a further opportunity of knowing what has happened before he is debarred from all his rights. I hope your Lordships will see your way to assent to all the stages of the Bill being taken to-night; I hope your Lordships will accept the Amendment I have suggested. I think, however, that whenever a Land Bill comes up again this clause ought to be considered, because I am satisfied it wants more consideration and that more changes are required than are covered by the very small change I now propose. There is no reflection at all, I think, upon the Government in reference to this matter, except in the fact that the Bill is introduced at so late a period in the session. If I had time I would communicate with the Judge who is over this department and get to know his views, but I have no doubt that the authorities who put in the second clause did so with an honest desire to cure so far as they could what is a matter now of some injustice. They might if they had pleased have confined their attention to the first clause, which is the only part the Government is concerned in, but with a desire to meet criticism they have put in the second clause. I desire to make a small Amendment, and to indicate that when the matter comes on again that it will have to be more fully considered.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Bill read 2ª accordingly; then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith; House in Committee accordingly.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 18, to omit the word 'six' and to insert the word 'twelve.'"—(*Lord Ashbourne.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived; Amendment reported; Bill read 3ª, with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

PATENTS AND DESIGNS BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order).

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said there was a misprint in the Bill, the word "reasonable" occurring twice. He did not think it was necessary to do more than to tell the House, so that with the authority of the House they might have it corrected.

Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX having been suspended) Bill read 3ª and passed, and returned to the Commons.

PATENTS AND DESIGNS (CONSOLIDATION) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order).

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY said that this was a yet further example of the remarkable manner in which business was done in respect of this Patents Bill. One of the invariable rules in respect of Consolidation Bills was that they should be sent to be considered by a Select Committee; but this Consolidation Bill, involving matters of tremendous importance and interest, had never been considered by a Select Committee either of their Lordships' House or of the House of Commons. It had been pushed through in a hocus-pocus manner, and Amendments without the least possible kind of supervision were to be stuck in at the last moment altogether. He presumed that was the manner in which the Government put the Amendments. He advised them to do so because there was no time to do it otherwise, but he desired to enter his protest against the manner in which the Bill was being carried through.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: Will your Lordships allow me to point out that I think the noble Marquess on this occasion is a little mistaken? I do not think it is the case that every Consolidation Bill should go to a Committee. On the contrary, Consolidation Bills are always treated in a quite exceptional way. They are taken on the faith of the officers and Parliamentary draftsmen, and the Minister is expected to see that they have been carefully considered, but, being Consolidation Bills, they do not affect more than the putting together of things Parliament has obviously already agreed to. That course has been adopted in regard to this Bill. I will not deny, if the noble Marquess insists, that he is right about the Select Committee.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I only spoke according to the information that has been given me. I cannot pretend to have first hand knowledge of the subject.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I will not affirm any more than the noble Marquess. Now let me explain what this Bill is. It is proposed now to bring the Bill which your Lordships have just read a second time, and which was amended in Committee, into the Consolidation Bill, and there is not a single novel point in the whole Bill. I have felt it my duty to inquire whether everything proper has been done. The Parliamentary draftsmen have been carefully through the Amendments to see that they are correct. They have also been checked by the clerks in the Parliamentary Office, and they have been examined by two of the Comptroller's Examiners. The Bill is purely a Consolidation Bill, and I hope under these circumstances we shall be allowed to have a Third Reading.

Amendments moved *en bloc*, and agreed to.

Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

CABS AND STAGE CARRIAGES (LONDON) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order).

Clause 1 :—

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 14, to leave out the word 'but,' and to insert the words 'and that.'"—(*Lord Granard.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

The Duke of NORTHUMBERLAND, in moving the omission of the clause, said he ought, under ordinary circumstances, to apologise to the House for bringing forward an Amendment of that kind at that time of the night. He was afraid, however, that it was quite unavoidable. The clause had nothing to do with the main subject of the Bill, and it could, therefore, be perfectly well omitted without affecting in any way the remainder of the measure. The second clause related entirely to what was called the privilege system of cabs. That was not a very fortunate phrase, because a great deal of the prejudice which existed against the system was owing to the use of that particular term. This was a matter which affected railway companies, but he did not bring it forward in their interests in any degree. If it had been a railway company's question, he did not think he would have taken it up, because his own private belief was that the railway companies were rather more apt to look after the interests of their shareholders than the public, and he was not generally inclined to champion the railway company. It was a matter which affected the travelling public far more than the railway companies. The privilege system was a system by which an arrangement was made by the railway companies and the cab masters to provide cabs which should always be ready at the stations at a moment's notice if required. The demand for vehicles at railway stations was very variable, and occurred at all times of day and night. It was, consequently, only by some arrangement that the railway companies could depend upon having cabs at the stations, no matter what the circumstances or what the hour, for the comfort and convenience of the travelling public. The subject had been before two Committees. The first, a Departmental Committee, which sat about twelve years ago. The Report of that Committee was a strange one, because, in the first place, it used very strange arguments in favour of the privilege system of cabs and then ended up by reporting very much against such a system. The second Committee was a Committee of the House of Commons. and it recommended the abolition of the privilege system. It did so upon rather peculiar grounds, inasmuch as it suggested that the experiment of doing away with the privileged cabs should be tried for one year. By the clause in the Bill, however, the system was done away with altogether. What were the arguments which that Committee used for doing away with the privilege system of cabs? One was that the experiment had been tried at one of the stations in London, viz., Charing Cross. It was tried at that station for two or three years, and it proved such a complete failure and the complaints were so very great that the South Eastern Railway Company reverted to the privilege system. If that occurred at Charing Cross, which was the very centre of the area where cabs were most frequently required, how much worse would it be at some of the stations on the outskirts of the Metropolis? Another argument used was that it was not in vogue at Waterloo Station. There were two stations, or sides, at Waterloo. On one side the privilege sub-system was not in vogue, and on the other side it was. It was rather curious that within the last two or three days there had appeared in the newspapers bitter complaints of the cab system at Waterloo. One gentleman wrote saying—

"At Waterloo the privileged cab system is not in force. I have rarely been able to get a cab without considerable delay, the few present on the arrival platform generally being annexed by passengers on previous trains. Unless a porter is sent down to the cab rank below the station, it is usually impossible to get a cab and the traveller is left waiting with his luggage."

There was one remark made by the Committee which greatly astonished him. It was that no difficulty was ever found in Palace Yard in getting a cab. He would have thought that that was a subject upon which they could form an opinion for themselves, especially those members who had been Members of the House of Commons. Nothing was more astonishing in the world than this finding that there was no difficulty in getting cabs in the Palace Yard. He was not going so far as to recommend the House of Commons to go in for the privileged cab system, but for the House of Commons to tell them that there was no difficulty in getting cabs in Palace Yard was most astounding. Their Lordships must have had experience of the very great difficulty of getting cabs in Palace Yard on a wet night. More than once he had walked a considerable distance towards his own home before he had found a cab. That, however, was an inconvenience which they could fairly well put up with, but, if they had a lot of luggage, or had the misfortune to have charge of a number of small children at the same time, they would find such a state of things extremely inconvenient; indeed, it would amount to being intolerable. There was no doubt that that was what they would find if they abolished the privileged cab system at the railway stations. It was not only the uncertainty which made the privileged cab system a necessity, but they had trains coming in just about the time the theatres closed. That was particularly the experience at Charing Cross Station, because Charing Cross was nearer the theatres than any other station. At such an hour all cabs were away. Then, again, trains, not infrequently, especially with companies working in conjunction with boat-lines, arrived late owing to the vessel not reaching her port in time. Supposing a vessel came in at an hour which made it unavoidable that passengers should not get to London at two or three o'clock in the morning, what chances were there at that hour of getting a large number of cabs to the station without some such system as that which was now in vogue and which enabled railway companies to lay their hands on exactly the number of cabs required? They could telegraph from one end of the system to the other that so many cabs were required. Another question, much smaller, but worthy of consideration, was the character of the cabs. If they were to throw railway stations open to all cabs, the worst vehicles would go there, because no cabman was particularly anxious to have his cab knocked about by portmanteaux and such like articles. It was only by the present system that railway companies could secure good cabs, and if the privilege system were done away with, the tendency would be for the worst cabs to gravitate to the stations and the better cabs to avoid them. Who was it that wanted this change? There was certainly no demand for it on the part of the cabdrivers, except those who were excluded under the present system. It, therefore, came to this, that the public were to be put to inconvenience for the sake of their own servants. He did not think the grievance which the non-privileged cabmen were under was sufficiently great, nor had it ever been sufficiently great, to make it necessary to take very stringent measures to relieve it. But even if it were worse than it was, he ventured to think that for the convenience of the whole travelling public the need for a proper cab supply at the great railway stations in the Metropolis was so great that it ought to outweigh a considerable amount of inconvenience, even if such could be shown, on the part of those who really existed for the purpose of serving the public.

Amendment moved—

"In pages 1 and 2, to leave out Clause 2."—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

*LORD STALBRIDGE said the noble Lord who had moved the omission of the clause had really left very little for him to say. There were, however, two or three points to which he desired to call their Lordships' attention. Why was the year 1910 put in as the year when the Act should commence? It was said to be a mistake, but his own impression was that it was done with a very proper object, and that was to meet the case of those contracts which would expire in 1910. There would have been something in that. He did not know whether the Home Office ever did make a mistake, but, if they did, that must be one of them. Subsection 2 of Clause 2 was put in avowedly to prevent railway companies owning cabs, and so dealing with the difficulties which would arise when the privileged cabs were done away with. If the railway companies were allowed to own their own cabs and to have them at their stations, which they would be perfectly able to do, a good deal of the difficulty would be done away with, but Subsection 2 of Clause 2 utterly prevented that being done. It might also affect the omnibuses which now plied from station to station. There were two points with regard to the two Committees which had sat on this matter. In 1895 a Commission reported in favour, as the noble Duke had said, of a very modified form of abolition of the privileged cab system, but at the same time it recommended most strongly that ample power should be given to the railway companies to deal with cabs in and about their stations. There was the power to regulate the number of cabs that might be admitted to the stations and the liability of cabs admitted to comply with any regulation the companies might make for the purpose of maintaining order or dealing with the traffic. There was nothing in the world to prevent a cabman in drink or a man with a very bad horse or cab getting into the station. It might be urged by the Home Office that such points were dealt with by the police, but if a cabman had been waiting some time outside a station and had been to the nearest public-house, it was quite possible that there might be no policeman on duty to see him, and he might get into the station, under the influence of liquor. He knew many cabowners and drivers very well, and he was glad to say that cases of drunkenness were rare; but police reports showed that cases did occur, and it was of the utmost importance that they should have at the stations civil and sober cabmen. The railway companies did not believe that their duty ended with landing passengers on the platform in London; they were bound to give them facilities for getting away, and he could assure their Lordships that the privileged cab system was started by the then London and Birmingham Railway in 1839 with that object. Their Lordships would see how many years the system had been in existence, and there had been no complaint whatever on the subject except in 1895, when there was a strike of cabmen. The cabmen, however, then saw that they had no case at all, and they admitted, after having spent £20,000 on the strike, that the public were entirely against them, and things went on as before with one slight exception, the so-called privilege being extended to all companies being able to go into every station. There was now really no hardship in the trade with regard to the privileged cabs, and he asked their Lordships, in the interests of hundreds of thousands of passengers not to do away with a system which had worked so well. The noble Duke had alluded to the case of a boat coming in late and the train arriving late at the terminal station in London. By their arrangements with the cabowners, the railway companies were able to send to them, and they were bound to provide the cabs required. They understood that, and they did it. He knew that the noble Lord would say that the Local Government Board had made arrangements with the Cabdrivers' Union, and that they would provide the cabs; but what was that worth? It was worth nothing whatever. It was only a kind of promise, and it was not worth the paper on which it was written. Where were they to call for them? Where were they to get them? Would they be seen when they were sent for? The result would be when English and American passengers arrived, say at Euston, late at night, they would have to go to every cab station in the neighbourhood and compel them to come in. Euston, too, was more favourably situated than some stations. At Paddington it would be absolutely impossible to get any cabs during the night. The same might be said of Liverpool Street. The difficulty, therefore, which would arise would be so enormous that it would not be worth, just on the plea of a few cabmen, throwing over a system which had worked so well. It was perfectly true that a railway cabman might go on to a stand and ply for hire and he was bound to do it by the police regulations, but as a matter of fact, he did not do it, because he went back to the yard or to his own station, or to the nearest terminal station as quickly as he could, and left the street traffic to other cabs. They would hardly ever see a railway cab on a cab rank in any street, except perhaps, on a Sunday morning when, the trains having come in early, men turned on to the ranks and took people to church who were willing to go. That was the only occasion on which railway cabs competed with street cabs, and it was then advantageous to the public.

THE LORD STEWARD (Earl BEAUCHAMP) said there was a great point in common between noble Lords opposite and the Home Office. They both desired to meet the convenience of the travelling public, and the point was whether the anxiety shown by the noble Lords opposite was more disinterested than that shown by the Home Office. The noble Duke who moved the omission of the subsection omitted to inform their Lordships that there was a number of railway companies who derived a considerable sum of money from the fees they exacted from the privileged cabs. It was impossible for their Lordships to overlook the fact that, whereas there was a disinterested anxiety on the part of the Home Office, it must be impossible for any director of any railway company to forget the advantages which accrued to his company from the existence of the privileged system, and which were ultimately derived out of the pockets of the travelling public.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Might I ask on what facts the noble Lord states that a revenue is derived by the railway companies from the privileged cab system?

EARL BEAUCHAMP: I did not think it was doubted. It has been stated before now that a considerable revenue is derived by the railway companies from the system.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I challenge the accuracy of the statement.

EARL BEAUCHAMP said he had never heard it doubted before, but he did not pretend to know what the exact sum was that was derived from the privileged cabs, or what they paid on each occasion, but they were certainly obliged to pay a larger sum than was paid at the open stations. The Cabdrivers' Organisation had undertaken that, if the privileged system were abolished, they would organise and maintain an effective supply of cabs to serve all the stations at all hours of day and night.

*LORD STALBRIDGE: Who are the Cabdrivers' Organisation?

EARL BEAUCHAMP said he thought their representative was a Mr. Smith. He was sincerely sorry that the noble Lord, who was chairman of the London and North Western Railway Company, had made a serious charge against an honourable body of working men that their promise was not worth the paper on which it was written. If a railway company would telephone to their headquarters they were prepared to use the whole power of their organisation. He proposed to give a few figures with regard to the numbers of the organisation as compared with privileged cabs, and he also thought it was only fair to point out that under the Bill it would be perfectly easy for the Secretary of State to return to the privilege system if the travelling public found that its abolition was not a success. The total number of licensed drivers of cabs in London was 12,400. There were at the direct disposal of the organisation at the present moment, 4,873, or if he might put it in round numbers, 5,000. Whenever there was a call for united action that number was increased by some 2,000 more. Those 2,000 were in favour of the abolition of the privileged cab system. That made very nearly 7,000. The remainder of the 12,400 were represented mostly by the 1,600 privileged drivers, and by some 1,300 small proprietors who drove their own cabs. Those small proprietors, however, were also in favour of the abolition of the system and would be willing to co-operate with their fellow drivers in seeing that the convenience of the travelling public was not interfered with. Therefore, there were some 8,000 out of

12,400 upon whom the travelling public would have direct claim, whereas at the present time there were only 1,600 privileged drivers, who were able to drive people from terminal stations. It was not unreasonable, therefore, to suppose that the travelling public would get just as good a service of cabs from the 8,000 as they did from the 1,600 privileged cab-drivers. He had not seen the letters in the newspaper which the noble Duke had quoted, but he understood they had reference to trials or experiments which had taken place.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: The letters I read were from travellers travelling on the South Western Railway. There was no experiment tried—it was the normal condition of things at the South Western Waterloo Station.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: That is what I mean. That is an open station.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: One part is open and the other is not. The letters refer to that part which has not the privileged system.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: That is what I mean. The letters refer to the unsatisfactory service where there was free entry for all cabs.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: It was the word "experiment" that I took exception to.

EARL BEAUCHAMP said the open system would not have a fair trial unless it was tried in a great many more stations than one. Probably their Lordships at an inconvenient moment had tried to get a hansom to catch a train at Euston. An ordinary cab which took one there was not allowed to pick up a traveller at the station when it returned again. They therefore took that cab-driver a long way from his home to an inconvenient place where he was not able to pick up a fare. It was really hard on the cab-driver that he should be obliged to go such a long distance without the hope of bringing anybody back. It was also so if they took a cab from one of the terminal stations to go to another part. He was anxious to try and point out that if they took a cab from any stray place or street in which they happened to live and went to a terminal station, and the cab-drivers were there allowed to pick up travellers, it would be better for them than it was at the present time. He thought it would in that case be likely that in the early mornings there would be more hansoms about, because they would be more likely to make a profit by being able to pick up a fare back from the stations instead of being turned out at once. It was quite impossible to prove beforehand that success could be assured by this new system, but he thought he was entitled to point out that both the Departmental Committee of 1894–5 and the Select Committee of 1906, after hearing the evidence of the companies and the men, and after exhaustively discussing the question of supplying the public, thought the experiment ought to be given a fair trial. After all, the men themselves did not ask for more than a fair trial. If their Lordships would refer to Subsection 3 of Clause 2 they would find that the Secretary of State reserved to himself full powers, if the system was not a success, to modify or suspend the operation of the section subject to such conditions as might be specified in the order. The Home Office were not asking their Lordships to commit themselves irrevocably to an entirely new system. They were only asking that a fair trial should be given to the system. If the Secretary of State, owing to representations which, he was quite sure, would reach him at once from the travelling public if the system was not a success, was not satisfied with it, he could assure their Lordships he would not oppose a return to the present system. The small proprietors themselves, numbering 1,300, were in favour of abolishing the privileged system, and the opinion of the Secretary of State was that it was quite impossible for him to ignore the findings of the Select Committee of last year. The House of Commons took the same view and strongly affirmed the clause by a majority of 126 to twenty-four, a majority of something like seven to one. That was an expression of opinion which it would be very difficult indeed for the Secretary of State to ignore. Might he say something with regard to the points raised by the Chairman of the London and North Western Railway Company. There was first the question of the year 1910. He could assure them that it was a mistake for 1909. The Secretary for State was anxious that no hardship should be done and to fix a date which would allow existing contracts to expire. He did not know whether the noble Lord would charge the Home Office with that as an offence, but it was found afterwards that the contracts appeared generally to be terminable at any time. The date, therefore, was altered to 1908, and the Secretary of State promised to consider any *bona fide* cases brought before him. None were brought before him, and the date therefore remained. The general question of privilege was one which was often debated, and it was agreed that privilege should not exist except under special circumstances of necessity. It rested with noble Lords opposite to prove that there was necessity in the present case. It was not the opinion of the Government that it had been proved. The Government were unwilling to leave out Clause 2, but, if the noble Duke would withdraw his Amendment, they would be willing to withdraw Subsection 2 of Clause 2, and to insert words in the clause to make it perfectly plain that the railway companies should retain complete control over the vehicles which entered their stations, and be able, for instance, to eject a man if he was drunk or if he came in with a horse in such a bad condition that it was really cruel to drive it. If there was wilful non-compliance with any regulation reasonably made by the railway company, the company would be able to require the cab to leave the station forthwith. He wished to show that the Government were very anxious to meet the noble Lords opposite with regard to any of the points raised. They would be perfectly willing to put in those Amendments if they would meet the views of noble Lords opposite. Meanwhile he might say on behalf of the cab-drivers of the Metropolis that there was a very grave complaint in regard to the present system, and he hoped their Lordships would not agree to the Amendment of the noble Duke, but would allow the new system a fair trial and give the Secretary of State an opportunity of seeing whether the convenience of the travelling public could not be better met under the new system than under the old.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH expressed regret that the noble Lord should have charged the railway companies with a sordid motive by implying that it was to their interest that the privileged cab system should continue because of the money they got from it. He had made careful inquiry with regard to that company on the board of which he was, and the gross sum taken by the Great Northern was about £560. A charge of 1s. 6d. per cab and 2d. per week for each man was made, but the men got a place for their meals and the companies lost money on the transaction. If a new system similar to that at Waterloo was brought into force, the revenue gained by the Great Northern would be considerably in excess of what it was at the present time. The money question did not enter into their feelings in the matter at all. He had not, however, confined his inquiries to the company which he actually knew. The revenue drawn by the Great Western under a system of 1d. for the admission of a cab would be in excess of the sum now derived, so that he hoped the noble Lord would dismiss from his mind the idea of any sordid motive on the part of the railway companies. The cost to the companies of keeping the places clean was in excess of the money taken from the cabs. All these things, however, were side issues. The real question, frankly stated by the noble Lord the other day, was what was most convenient to the travelling public. That was the consideration by which he would like the whole matter to be judged. The noble Lord was very liberal as to the promises of what might be done by the cab-drivers, but the railway companies would have no claim upon them which they could enforce, and practically it was the unanimous feeling of everybody interested in managing the traffic at railway stations, and especially stations in the North of London, that, unless there was some such system as that now existing, they could not guarantee getting passengers promptly away from the stations. It was all very well for the Home Office to say that they would consider complaints, but complaints would reach those who managed the stations long before they reached the Home Office. He quite understood that no disclaimer of this sort would gain credence with the Government or the public, because they always assumed that the railway companies must have some selfish interest in the matter. They believed that without the privileged system it would be impossible to get passengers promptly away from the stations. It was all very well to say they might have a trial for a year, and to parade the discretion of the Secretary of State if he had complaints, but how long were those complaints to go on before those responsible for the railway companies were to get relief? He wished to state as distinctly as possible that their position was taken up, not on the ground of pecuniary consideration, but solely on the ground of public convenience. He had only to say in conclusion, as he intimated the other day, that the London Members were not really in any way representative of the travellers who arrived in London. He had no doubt that the London cab-drivers put pressure on their representatives, and he did not blame those Members for looking after the interests of their constituents, but the unanimous opinion of those who had had experience was that the present system was the best for the public.

LORD STALBRIDGE said that what the noble Lord had said about King's Cross applied equally to Euston. If there was a free system of 1d. per cab they could make more money. The money question did not enter into the matter at all. He was assured it was exactly the same at Paddington. They would make more money there than they did by the present system. The Lord Steward had said that there was unanimity amongst the cab-owners, but he would ask him to read the evidence of Mr. Curl given before the last Committee. He would then see that there was not unanimity amongst all cab-owners.

On Question, whether the clause should stand part of the Bill, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 18; Not-contents, 87.

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Crewe, E. (*L. President.*)

Beauchamp, E. (*L. Steward.*)

Althorp, V. (*L. Chamberlain.*)

Allendale, L.
Blyth, L.
Colebrooke, L.
Denman, L. [*Teller.*]
Elgin, E. (*E. Elgin and Kincardine.*)
Fitzmaurice, L.
Glantawe, L.

Granard, L. (*E. Granard.*) [*Teller.*]
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Herschell, L.
Lucas, L.
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Northumberland, D. [*Teller.*]
Richmond and Gordon, D.
Wellington, D.

Ailesbury, M.
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Camperdown, E.
Cathcart, E.
Cawdor, E.
Dartrey, E.
Derby, E.
Doncaster E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Eldon, E.
Lauderdale, E.
Londesborough, E.
Malmesbury, E.

Morton, E.
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Radnor, E.
Scarbrough, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E.
Wicklow, E.
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Ardilaun, L.
Ashbourne, L.

Atkinson, L.
Balfour, L.
Barnard, L.
Barrymore, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Brodrick, L. (*V. Midleton.*)
Calthorpe, L.
Cheylesmore, L.
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Clonbrock, L.
Cloncurry, L.
Colchester, L.
Cottesloe, L.
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Lamington, L.
Lawrence, L.
Leigh, L.
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Penrhyn, L.
Ponsonby, L. (*E Bessborough.*)
Ranfurly, E. (*E. Ranfurly.*)
Rathmore, L.
Robertson, L.
Saltoun, L.
Sandys, L.
Seaton, L.
Stalbridge, L. [*Teller.*]
Stewart of Garlies, L. (*E. Galloway.*)
Sudley, L. (*E. Arran.*)
Templemore, L.
Tennyson, L.
Waleran, L.

Clause 3 agreed to.

EARL BEAUCHAMP said the object of his Amendment was to give the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and the Commissioner of the City Police power to fix stopping places for stage carriages, and he did not think it was in any sense controversial.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 3, to insert the following new clause:—'The Commissioner of Metropolitan Police, and as respects the City of London the Commissioner of City Police, may give directions with respect to the stopping places for stage carriages in London, and if the driver or conductor of any stage carriage acts in contravention of any direction so given, he shall be liable in respect of each offence on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding 40s.'"—(*Earl Beauchamp*).

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived; then (Standing Order No. XXXIX having been suspended) Amendments reported: Bill read 3^{a}, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY (INSURANCE COMPANIES) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order).

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 27, after the word 'societies' to insert the following new subsection:—'(4) In the application of this Act to Scotland the expression "county court" means sheriff court.'"—(*Lord Granard.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Then (Standing Order No, XXXIX. having been suspended) Amendment reported: Bill read 3^{a} with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN (COUNTY AND TOWN COUNCILS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Commons Amendments considered.

LORD HAMILTON OF DALZELL said that this matter was very much the same as was disposed of on Saturday in the English Bill. It would be within the recollection of the House that when the Bill was originally introduced it provided for women holding the offices of convenors of county councils and provosts of burghs, but, in accordance with what had been done in the case of a similar English Bill, their Lordships struck out those provisions. The Bill also contained two provisions by which women by virtue of being provosts or convenors should not become magistrates, and a further provision that, if a woman was elected as provost, an additional magistrate should be appointed during her tenure of office. The qualification of women for those two offices having been struck out, the other two provisions naturally went also. The other House of Parliament had re-inserted the provisions, and they were contained in the Amendments. He begged to move that the Commons Amendments be agreed to.

On Question, Commons Amendments agreed to.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS BILL.

Debate on the Motion for the Second Reading resumed (according to Order); after further short debate, Bill read 2a; then (Standing Order No. XXXIX having been suspended), Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith: House in Committee accordingly.

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Clause 4:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 7, at the end of the line after (1897) to add the words 'Subsection 4 of Section 2 shall not apply.'"—(*Lord Allendale.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived; Amendment reported; Bill read 3ª with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

WHALE FISHERIES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for Second Reading read.

LORD HAMILTON OF DALZELL: The object of this Bill is to regulate the whaling industry which has recently been established in some of the northern islands off the coast of Scotland. The Bill is founded on the Report of the Departmental Committee which inquired into this matter in 1904, and which reported that it was desirable to regulate the industry for three principal reasons. The first reason was that a very great nuisance was caused by the manufacture of oil and other products from whales. The Committee reported that in some cases the sea was polluted for miles round by the amount of whales' blood and other refuse which was discharged into it. They also reported that a great nuisance was created by the smell. It is, in fact, stated in the Report that the Members of this Committee smelt one of these factories at a distance of a mile and a half. The second reason is to prevent injury being done to the herring fishing industry. This has been done in the present Bill by forbidding the killing of whales altogether during the winter fishing season, by allowing the Scottish Fishery Board to name a period not exceeding five weeks during which whales shall not be killed in the summer, by prohibiting the killing of whales within three miles of the coast at all times, and also by forbidding the killing of whales within one mile of any vessel engaged in fishing. The third reason for regulating the industry is to preserve the whales from extermination. The way in which the regulation is to be effected is by the issue of licences at the cost of £100. These licences will empower the holder to employ one steamer and the number may be increased to four at the discretion of the Board. I may add that this Bill is practically a legacy from the late Secretary for Scotland, and that it has already passed your Lordships' House on one occasion. There was no time for it to be passed into law that session. I beg to move that the House do give the Bill a Second Reading.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Read 2ª accordingly. Committees negatived; then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bills read 3ª, and passed.

SHERIFF COURTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for Second Reading read.

LORD HAMILTON OF DALZELL: This Bill is rather a formidable looking Bill in point of size, but I understand it is principally for the purpose of consolidating the existing law and that it only contains a very few new points. The principal new points are these—the duties of the Recovering Court as a separate Court is to be abolished and the limit of jurisdiction of the Small Debt Court is to be raised from £12 to £20. The pecuniary limit respecting actions which must necessarily be brought into the Sheriff Court is raised to £50, and the jurisdiction of the Sheriff Court is extended in the direction suggested by the Departmental Committee. Provision is made for trial by jury in the Sheriff Court in actions raised under the Employers Liability Act of 1880. The practice of appealing under the Act was considered to have led to considerable abuses, and it was provided in the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1903, that in future those cases should remain in the Sheriff Court. The Bill makes provisions for the trial of those cases in the Sheriff Court by a jury if either of the parties to the action so desire, as in the case of similar actions in the County Courts of Engand. The Bill was considered in the Grand Committee in the House of Commons during three days, and it was there treated as an unopposed Bill. It has received very careful consideration from the Scottish Law Officers of the Crown, and I confess I am not sufficiently a lawyer to be able to explain it in detail to your Lordships. I know that other Lords are interested in it, and I ask the House to give it a Second Reading.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said he hardly liked the Bill passing through the House without a word, because it seemed to him that if no remark was made that it might be regarded as a bad precedent. This was a large voluminous Bill, there being something over fifty clauses, but he ventured to suggest that the history of it was such as to justify their Lordships in passing it. He thought they might very reasonably have complained of the late period of the session at which it appeared before them for the first time, but, if ever there was a measure on which both sides had collaborated to make it as perfect as possible, this was one. Some years ago, during his tenure of office as Secretary for Scotland, he appointed a Committee to consider the subject. The then Lord Advocate was in the Chair and when he succeeded to the office of Secretary for Scotland his successor took the Chair of the Committee. It was a mere accident, a general election having taken place, that the next step was not taken under a Conservative Law Officer of the Crown. As a matter of fact, the possibility of taking up the work of the Departmental Committee had devolved upon the present Law Officers of the Crown. They had had the constructive work, and the task of criticising had fallen upon the side to which he belonged. The drafting of the Bill had been carefully considered by the various legal societies. It would be absurd to say that the Bill met with absolute acceptance at every point, but the outstanding points on which there was any real difficulty were extremely few, and he was quite sure it was in the interests of Scotland, of judicial procedure, and of the whole inhabitants of the country that the Bill should be passed into law as soon as possible. There was one considerable innovation made in it, and about which he knew some difference of opinion existed, namely, the introduction of a new procedure of jury trial in the Sheriff Court, chiefly in cases coming under the head of employers' liability. Some misgiving undoubtedly existed about that procedure, but it was carefully regulated by the statute. There were points where differences of opinion were likely to exist, but they were carefully safeguarded by means of possible appeal, and he thought he might say that all parties concerned acquiesced in giving the new procedure a full and fair trial. He did not think any Bill had received more thorough consideration outside Parliament than this Bill, and he thought the House might safely accept it. Rules of procedure were now in the schedule in a codified form, instead of their having to be searched for through sixty or seventy Acts of Parliament. To that extent the Bill was a Consolidation Bill in Court procedure. It would be very easy to speak at much greater length, but he was sure he would be consulting the best interests of the House by simply assuring their Lordships that he believed this to be a valuabe Bill and by expressing the hope that their Lordships would consent to pass it.

LORD HAMILTON OF DALZELL expressed his thanks to the noble Lord who had just spoken for the help he had given him, and, if their Lordships would agree, he proposed to take the other stages now.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly. Committees negative; then (Standing Order XXXIX having been suspended), Bill read 3^a, and passed.

LIGHTS ON VEHICLES BILL.

Commons Amendments to Lords Amendments considered.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said that in moving to agree with the Commons Amendments he thought it only right that he should explain exactly why they had come back to them. The Government made two Amendments in the Bill, and they were unfortunately found when they got to the House of Commons to be a breach of privilege. The House of Commons re-inserted the Amendments as their Amendments and now asked their Lordships to agree with them. He need not say that he heartily desired that their Lordships should agree with them, but he would perhaps be allowed to express the hope that as they found that even such infallible people as His Majesty's Government unfortunately made such mistakes, they would remember it when less fallible people made mistakes and try and treat them with the same mercy as they themselves had been treated by the House of Commons.

Moved, "That this House doth agree with the Commons in the said Amendments."—(*Earl of Donoughmore.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS BILL.

Returned from the Commons with several of the Amendments agreed to; several others agreed to with Amendments, several others disagreed to, but Amendments made in lieu thereof, and several others disagreed to, with reasons for such disagreement: The said Amendments and reasons to be printed, and to be considered To-morrow. (No. 215.)

EVICTED TENANTS (IRELAND) BILL

Returned from the Commons with several of the further Amendments made by the Lords agreed to: With one of the Amendments to which the Lords have disagreed not insisted on: With one of the Lords Amendments to the Commons Amendments agreed to, with an Amendment: With one of the Lords Amendments disagreed to, but Amendments made in lieu thereof, and with a consequential Amendment to the Bill: With certain other of the Lords Amendments disagreed to, and certain Amendments to which the Lords have disagreed insisted on, with reasons for such disagreement. The said Amendments and reasons to be printed, and to be considered To-morrow. (No. 216.)

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with certain Amendments agreed to, and certain Amendments agreed to with Amendments. The said Amendments to be printed and to be considered To-morrow. (No. 217.)

House adjourned at a quarter past Twelve o'clock a.m., till half-past Two o'clock p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 26th August, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PETITIONS.

Weekly Rest-day Bill. Petition from Willesden and other places, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

RAILWAYS IN BRITISH PROTECTORATES, LEASED TERRITORIES, AND COLONIES (OTHER THAN THE TRANSVAAL AND ORANGE RIVER COLONY).

Return [presented 23rd August] to be printed. [No. 336.]

HORSE-BREEDING (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of Eleventh Report of the Royal Commission on Horse-Breeding [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1906.

Copy presented, of Treasury Warrant, dated 21st August, 1907, modifying for the purposes of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, the warrant made under Section 1 of the Superanunation Act, 1887, relative to the award of Compensation for Injury [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SUGAR CONVENTION.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 19th August; *Sir Gilbert Parker*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 337.]

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS.

Copy presented, of Report on Strikes and Lock-outs of 1906, and on Conciliation and Arbitration Boards [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (CHANGES IN WAGES, ETC).

Copy presented, of Report on changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom in 1906, with comparative Statistics for 1897–1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GAS AND WATER ORDERS.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, during the session of 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GAS UNDERTAKINGS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th May; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 338.]

GAS UNDERTAKINGS (LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th May; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 339.]

CONCILIATION ACT, 1896 (TRADE DISPUTES).

Copy presented, of Sixth Report by the Board of Trade of proceedings under the Conciliation Act, 1896 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 340.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3907 and 3908 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

HOUSE-LETTING (SCOTLAND) (DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE).

Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary for Scotland of the Departmental Committee on House-Letting in Scotland. Volume I. Report [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ESTABLISHED CHURCH (SCOTLAND) (COMMUNICANTS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 18th December, 1906; *Mr. McCallum*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 341.]

ECCLESIASTICAL EXPENDITURE (SCOTLAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 18th December 1906; *Mr. McCallum*]; to lie upon the Table and to be printed [No. 342.]

ESTABLISHED CHURCH (SCOTLAND) (ELECTION OF MINISTERS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th March; *Mr. McCallum*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 343.]

DEER FORESTS (SCOTLAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 27th March; *Mr. Molteno*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 344.]

TREATMENT OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS (SCOTLAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 1st May; *Mr. Gulland*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 345.]

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st August; *Mr. Sinclair*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 346.]

CANALS AND WATERWAYS (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of Second Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report on the Canals and Inland Navigations of the United Kingdom, Vol. I. Report; Vol. II. Minutes of Evidence and Appendices (Ireland); Vol. III. Minutes of Evidence and Appendices (England and Scotland); Vol. IV. Returns [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copies presented, of Orders made by the Metropolitan Borough of Hackney, the Borough of Widnes, and Barking Town Urban District Council, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Regulations for the training of Teachers of Domestic Subjects, 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATES (IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 19th August; *Mr MacVeagh*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 347.]

LOANS CONTRACTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Return ordered, "showing the following particulars with respect to the areas of Municipal Corporations, District Councils, Joint Boards, or Joint Committees, or other Local Authorities in England or Wales which have contracted Loans on the security of any rate or rates, that is to say, (a) area of District; (b) population according to the last Census; (c) rateable and assessable value according to the last valuation list; (d) rates made in the District during the last preceding financial year; (e) the sum of the balances of outstanding Loans contracted by the Local Authority; and (f) the amount of the outstanding Loans to which the limitation of Section 234 of the Public Health Act, 1875, applies."—(*Mr. H. W. Forster.*)

PUBLIC BILLS (ALLOCATION OF TIME).

Return ordered, "showing, with reference to each of the following Bills, viz., Education (England and Wales) Bill (1906), Plural Voting Bill (1906), Evicted Tenants Bill (1907), Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill (1907), the number of clauses disposed of without discussion (a) in Committee, and (b) on Report, under the order of the House for Allocation of time on the Bill."—(*Mr. Jowett.*)

MERCHANT SHIPPING, 1906.

Copy ordered, "of Tables showing the progress of Merchant Shipping in the United Kingdom and the principal Maritime Countries."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

COAL TABLES, 1906.

Copy ordered, "of Statistical Tables relating to the production, consumption, and imports and exports of coal in the British Empire and the principal foreign countries in each year from 1885 to 1906, as far as the particulars can be stated; together with statements showing the production of lignite and petroleum in the principal producing countries, for a series of years (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 321, of Session 1906)."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

IRON AND STEEL, 1906.

Copy ordered, "of Memorandum and Statistical Tables showing the production and consumption of Iron Ore and Pig Iron, and the production of Steel in the United Kingdom and the principal Foreign Countries in recent years, and the Imports and Exports of certain classes of Iron and Steel Manufactures (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No 322, of Session 1906)."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

EXPORTS TO CHINA AND SOUTH AMERICA.

Return ordered, "showing, so far as can be stated (1) the Exports to China, inclusive of Hong Kong, from the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States for the years 1887 to 1906, and the average for each of the quinquennial periods ending 1891, 1896, 1901, and 1906, showing increase in value and percentage between the averages for the last and each earlier period; (2) a similar Return for the same periods showing Exports to Argentina from the same countries; and (3) a similar Return showing Exports from the same countries to the whole of South America (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 131, of Session 1906)."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1894 (PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS, 1907.)

Return ordered, "of particulars respecting the Election of Parish Councils in Scotland in the year 1907 in the following form:—

County.	Names of Parishes and Parish Wards, distinguishing Parishes and Wards in a Burgh or Police Burgh.			Number of Electors in Parish or Parish Ward.			Number of Electors who voted.			Percentage of Electors who voted to the number of Electors on Register.		
	Name of Parish.	Name of Parish Ward.	Name of Burgh or Police Burgh in which Parish Wards are situated.	County Council Register.	Town Council Register.	Parish Council Register.	County Council Election.	Town Council Election.	Parish Council Election.	County Council Election.	Town Council Election.	Parish Council Election.

—(*Mr. Sinclair.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Legal Expenses Incurred for Recovery of Loan from Thomas Beirne.

MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what has been the total amount of legal expenses incurred by instituting two separate trials in the courts, and making two appeals arising therefrom, for the recovery of a sum of £4 0s. 3d. loaned to Thomas Beirne in 1894 under the powers of the Loan for Drainage Maintenance Act of 1866.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The total cost of the legal proceedings in this case was £26 15s. 9d. The particulars of the proceedings are stated on page 9 of a Return to an Order of this House, viz., No. 304, of the present session.

Foot and Mouth Disease in Australia.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the Board of Agriculture have any record of any outbreak at any time of foot-and-mouth disease in the sheep and cattle of Australia or New Zealand; and, if not, whether cattle or sheep from either of these Colonies would be allowed to land at the foreign cattle market at Deptford.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The Answer to the first part of my hon. friend's Question is in the negative. There is nothing in the Foreign Animals Order to prevent animals from Australia or New Zealand being landed in this country provided they are brought there direct, but I understand that it is found necessary in practice for vessels from those countries to call at a port in one of those countries from which importation is prohibited, and in such circumstances the animals could not be landed in this country. An attempt was made several years ago to start a trade in live animals from Australasia, but the results were so disastrous to the cattle carried that the experiment was not repeated.

Application of Thomas Balmer for Vacant Post at Hillsborough.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that Mr. Thomas Balmer, of Hillsborough, county Down, petitioned for a vacant post between Hillsborough and Edentrillick in February last; whether he is further aware that the post had then been vacant for a considerable period, and that up to the present time Mr. Balmer has received no reply to his application; and whether he can now announce his decision.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Under a revision of the postal arrangements in the neighbourhood of Belfast and Lisburn it was decided to transfer a certain portion of the Lisburn postal area to the control of the postmaster of Belfast. This involved the displacement of a rural postman at Lisburn, and the conflicting claims of the men whose duties were affected necessitated prolonged discussion of the proposals. Meanwhile, the Hillsborough to Edentrillick rural post, which is in the Lisburn area, was kept vacant in order to provide for the postman who would be displaced. In these circumstances it was not possible to give Mr. Balmer a definite reply to his petition for the post. The changes have been carried into effect, and a reply will be sent to Mr. Balmer.

Late Delivery of Mails at Carndonagh and Culdaff.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether anything is being done to remedy the inconvenience and loss to which the town of Carndonagh and district, and also Culdaff, are subjected by the late delivery of mails; and whether he will take steps to have the grievance removed.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The matter is receiving consideration, and I am in hope that it may be found possible to effect a material improvement in the hour of delivery in Carndonagh and district.

Duties of Clerks to Boards of Guardians.

MR. BARNARD (Kidderminster): To ask the President of the Local Government Board what, under the existing Orders of the Local Government Board, is the duty of a clerk to a board of guardians as to the examination of certain accounts of other officers of his board; what is the nature and extent of such examination; and whether the Orders confer any power or cast any responsibility upon a clerk to supervise or control the affairs of any other officer of a union, being the head of a department, who is a directly accounting officer to the guardians and to the district auditor.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) Article 25 of the General Order for the Accounts of Boards of Guardians provides as follows:—" On the day next before every ordinary meeting of the board of guardians, or on the day of such meeting, but previous to the meeting, the clerk shall examine the master's day book, and shall compare the entries of invoices and bills with the invoices and bills themselves, and shall see that all the goods supplied and works done are carried by the master to the proper accounts, and shall certify the correctness of the same by his initials. He shall also compare the entries of payments in the master's receipt and payment account with the vouchers, and ascertain that the master has debited this account with all sums received by him, and produces proper vouchers for all payments made by him, and shall insert his initials at the foot of such account. And he shall inspect the other books required to be kept by the master by this Order, so as to ascertain that they are duly kept in proper form and with due regularity. The clerk shall also, at the same time, examine the weekly account in each relieving officer's outdoor relief lists and receipt and expenditure book, so as to ascertain the accuracy of the entries therein and that the relief has been given in accordance with the orders of the guardians, by comparison with the relief order book, and shall certify the correctness of the same by his initials. The clerk shall report to the guardians at the said meeting the result of his examinations. And the master and the relieving officer shall respectively, subject to any direction of the board of guardians, present their books and accounts to the clerk for his examination on such day as aforesaid." As I indicated in reply to the previous Question of my hon. friend, it is the clerk's duty, as far as may be, to give to the other officers the instructions requisite for the prompt and correct execution of all orders and directions of the Local Government Board and of the guardians, and to report to the guardians any neglect or failure therein which may come to his knowledge. This duty devolves on him in respect of every officer, whether he comes within the category referred to in the last part of the Question or not.

The Hague Conference and the Shipbuilding Programme.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the resolution as to the desirability of resuming the consideration of the question of the growing expenditure on armaments, carried at The Hague Conference, and in view of his announcement as to the additional battleship as part of this year's shipbuilding programme, he now proposes to proceed with the construction of such ship.

(*Answered by Mr. Lambert.*) It would be premature to anticipate the results of The Hague Conference, which has not yet concluded its deliberations.

Construction Abandoned Under the Naval Works Acts.

MR. MURRAY MACDONALD (Falkirk Burghs): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will give a list of the works constructed under the Naval Works Acts which have not been completed, or which have been abandoned, or which have proved to be unnecessary, and of the amounts spent on each of them.

(*Answered by Mr. Lambert.*) I am not quite sure if I understand what my hon. friend requires. A copy of the statement showing the original and revised cost of these works is being sent him, and will, I hope, afford him the requisite information.

Hours and Conditions of Labour in Foreign Dockyards.

MR. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if if he can yet make a statement in respect to the hours and conditions of labour in the dockyards abroad.

Answered by Mr. Lambert.) Some points of detail still remain to be settled before any statement can be made.

The Home Fleet and the Autumn Manœuvres.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the official intimation that the ships of the Home Fleet will take part in the autumn manœuvres this year refers only to ships of the Home Fleet manned with nucleus crews, or to the division formed in March last and constituted from battleships and cruisers withdrawn from other fleets, or whether both are included.

(*Answered by Mr. Lambert.*) Thirty-eight fully-manned vessels of the Home Fleet will take part in the exercises, including the Nore division of battleships and cruisers.

German Shipbuilding Programme.

MR. NIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether His Majesty's Government have the services of a naval attaché in Berlin; if so, how it comes that the Admiralty are in ignorance of the progress made by the German Government in carrying out their shipbuilding programmes of 1905–6 and 1906–7, and have not obtained the information available to the Press of this country; and whether the Board intend to take any, and what, steps to ensure their being made acquainted promptly with all information that can be legitimately acquired by their representatives abroad.

(*Answered by Mr. Lambert.*) The Admiralty have no knowledge of any official information published by the German Government on this subject. They are satisfied with the information supplied by their naval attaché at Berlin, which they do not propose to divulge.

Housing of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): To ask the Secretary for Scotland what provision is being made by the Government for the housing of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I cannot concur in the assumption of this Question, viz., that the Government is responsible for the provision of accommodation for the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. But I am aware that the society is in correspondence with the Board of Trustees of the National Galleries with reference to the rooms which the society have hitherto rented in the National Portrait Gallery buildings; and I have undertaken to look into the circumstances.

Coal Exports.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if the latest Returns show any slackening of the abnormal demand for coal from the Continent; and if he can give the amount of the export of coal from the United Kingdom during the months of June and July of each of the years 1905, 1906, and 1907.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I am informed on inquiry at the Customs that there is at present no indication of a slackening in the demand for British coal on the Continent.

Statement showing the registered quantities of coal exported from the United Kingdom to the Continent of Europe and other destinations during the months of June and July in each of the years 1905, 1906, and 1907;—

Exports to	1905.		1906.		1907.	
	June.	July.	June.	July.	June.	July.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
European Countries	3,153,421	3,423,086	3,571,938	4,128,940	4,405,584	5,259,453
Other destinations	675,835	708,987	693,879	898,222	915,509	839,210
Total .	3,829,256	4,132,073	4,265,817	5,027,162	5,321,093	6,098,663

Uneconomic Holdings on the Doherty Estate.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners received a petition from the tenants on the Doherty Estate Caherglissane, near Kinvara, Galway, pointing out that negotiations were going on for the sale to them of their holdings, and directing attention to the fact that two large farms on the estate were excluded from the terms of sale; and, having regard to the small uneconomic holdings on the property, whether the Commissioners will make inquiry into the matter, with a view of securing the untenanted land in the interest of the tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have not received the petition referred to, and that no proceedings for the sale of the estate have been instituted before them.

Irish Imports and Exports.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.); To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, with a view to ensuring complete accuracy in the official publication by the Irish Department of Agriculture of Irish exports, he will represent to the self-governing and other Colonies the necessity of recording, as far as possible, the imports from Ireland; and whether, if it is not found to be practicable to do this forthwith, efforts will be made to give such information in their annual Reports as will be of use to the Irish Department and to Irish traders.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Government of Canada has reported that the separation of imports of Irish produce in the Canadian Trade Returns is deemed to be impracticable, and under the circumstances I see no advantage in pressing other Colonies to make this change. There is no reason to believe that any Colony omits from its Reports information likely to be of value to any part of the United Kingdom, without distinction.

Principal Clerk in the Audit Office Acting as Secretary to the Royal Almoner.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether a principal clerk in the Audit Office in receipt of £850 per annum acts as paid secretary to the Royal Almoner; and, if so, seeing that his duties as paid secretary are performed during the usual official hours which obtain in the Audit Office, will he explain what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I am informed that the officer referred to, who has acted as secretary to the Lord High Almoner since 1st January, 1886, was permitted by the then Comptroller-General to accept the post, the duties of which are not onerous, on the distinct understanding that they should be performed outside the regular office hours, and this condition has been strictly complied with.

Transfer of Irish Savings Bank Work to Dublin.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Postmaster-General whether, seeing that a large number of Savings Bank women clerks were asked by the Savings Bank authorities, either privately or officially, some time before the present Government came into office, if they would serve in Dublin, that the percentages of Irish deposits and withdrawals made through British deposit books and *vice versa*, as worked out by the Savings Bank, either privately or officially, show only one per cent. approximately on the totals, that, apart from the enormous inconvenience to Irish depositors, Ireland loses £30,000 per annum by having the Irish Savings Bank accounts kept in London, that 99 per cent. of the manufactured stuff used in the Post Office in Ireland is not manufactured in Ireland, that clerical work can be as efficiently and, having regard to the cost of housing accommodation, more economically performed in Dublin than in London, and that it would be more in conformity with Irish ideas if the Irish Savings Bank accounts were kept in Dublin, he will further consider the advisability of transferring the work of keeping these accounts from London to Dublin.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have already replied to these Questions, and I am afraid I have nothing further to add.

Postal Facilities at Carrick-on-Shannon.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will consider the question of improving the postal facilities in the sub-district of Carrick-on-Shannon, parish of Glass, and particularly in the direction of the district stretching towards Blacklion, in county Cavan.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have called for a Report on this subject, and on its receipt I will send the hon. Member a reply.

Postal Servants—The Efficiency Bar.

MR. STEADMAN (Finsbury, Central): To ask the Postmaster-General whether, having regard to his declarations that loss of seniority is a punishment imposed only in cases of grave misconduct, and that there is no question of punishment for failure to pass the bar, and that all rules relating to the efficiency bar are of uniform application, officers failing to pass the efficiency bar lose their seniority; and whether this is one of the penalties generally imposed in such cases.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The Answer is in the negative.

Delay in Arrival of English Letters at Downpatrick.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that during the past three weeks, with very few exceptions, English letters have not reached Downpatrick, county Down, until the train arriving at 11.38 a.m. and on many occasions by the train arriving at 2.55 p.m., which causes inconvenience to business and professional men in the town; and that, prior to the period mentioned, English letters were regularly delivered in Downpatrick at 11 a.m., travelling by the train leaving Belfast at 9.35 a.m.; and if he will explain the reason of the present delay, and take steps to have it remedied.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have called for a Report on this subject, and on its receipt I will send the hon. Member a reply.

Letter Sorting at Manchester Sub-Post Offices.

MR. W. T. WILSON (Lancashire, Westhoughton): To ask the Postmaster-General whether a system of sorting letters for despatch has been introduced into certain sub-offices in the Manchester postal district with the object of relieving the pressure of work at the head office; whether this will impose more work and expense upon the sub-postmasters; and, if so, whether it is his intention to remunerate those sub-postmasters who are paid by commission for the extra work and responsibilities the new system will involve.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) In order to relieve the pressure at the Manchester head office on the night mail despatch, certain sub-postmasters have been instructed to separate their correspondence into a few simple divisions. The arrangement is at present experimental; if authorised permanently the sub-postmasters concerned will receive the usual remuneration provided in the scale of payment for such work.

Regulation of the Movement of Swine.

MR. FIELD: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether his attention has been called to the decline shown in recent official statistics in the production of swine in the three kingdoms; whether he is aware that this is attributed partly to the difficulties arising from the orders restricting the movement of swine, and further to the enormous confiscations by medical officers of health and meat inspectors of entire carcases alleged to be tuberculous, although in many cases only showing the slightest symptoms in one particular gland; whether he is aware that owing to these causes the importation of pigs from foreign countries, where more reasonable methods prevail, have greatly increased; and whether he will consider the advisability of adopting measures to remedy the grievances complained of by the Home producers.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The Returns for 1907, which have just been tabulated, show a considerable increase in the number of pigs in Great Britain, the total being 2,636,808 as compared with 2,323,461 in 1906. The statistics of pigs always show considerable fluctuations from year to year, and it has never been possible to see any appreciable relation between them and the severity or otherwise of the swine fever restrictions. We have no information as to the extent to which swine have been seized after slaughter on account of tuberculosis, and on this point I would refer my hon. friend to the Local Government Board. It is certainly not the case that the importation of pigs has increased in recent years. Only 150 pigs were imported in 1905 and none at all in any of the other years from 1899 to 1906, while the importation of pig-meat in 1906 was less than in 1904 and considerably less than in the years 1898 to 1901.

Board of Agriculture and the Regulation of Swine.

MR. FIELD: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he can state which is the particular authority responsible for the due carrying out of the various orders promulgated from time to time by the Board of Agriculture for regulating the movement of swine; whether he is aware that difficulty has arisen in different parts of the kingdom, to the inconvenience and loss of traders and all concerned in the rearing, feeding, and sale of pigs; also whether more convenient methods than those now in vogue could be adopted.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The orders in question are executed and enforced by the various local authorities under the Diseases of Animals Acts. It is, I fear, inevitable that restrictions of the character referred to should cause some inconvenience and possibly loss to traders and others concerned, but the Board endeavour to mitigate such inconvenience, so far as this can be done consistently with the attainment of the object which they have in view.

Bovine Tuberculosis.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the last Report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis is of such a character as will enable the Government forthwith to introduce legislation dealing effectively with bovine tuberculosis, especially in relation to the seizures and condemnation of alleged tuberculous meat, the consumption of which is alleged to be a serious menace to public health.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The Report contains definite statements as to bovine tuberculosis in relation to milk, and these are receiving my consideration with a view to such legislation as may be necessary; but the question of tuberculous meat is not dealt with by the Report, and legislation on this subject could not be based upon it. I understand, however, that the question is now being investigated by the Royal Commission, who will report upon it in due course.

Emigrants from British Ports.

MR. J. D. WHITE (Dumbartonshire): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can say what were the numbers of emigrants of British nationality sailing from British ports annually for each of the last ten years to Canada, to other British dominions, and to foreign countries, respectively; and what are the corresponding estimated numbers for the present year.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) Statement showing the number of British and Irish passengers (including cabin passengers) who left or arrived at the ports of the United Kingdom for or from ports in British North America, other British Colonies, and non-European foreign countries, respectively, during each of the years 1897 to 1906; and showing also the corresponding numbers for the seven months ending 31st July 1906 and 1907:—

Year or period.	British North America.			Other British Colonies and Possessions.			Non-European Foreign Countries.			Total.		
	Outward.	Inward.	Balance outward.	Outward.	Inward.	Balance outward.	Outward.	Inward.	Balance outward.	Outward.	Inward.	Balance outward.
1897 . . .	15,571	9,940	5,631	40,772	27,431	13,341	90,117	57,850	32,267	146,460	95,221	51,239
1898 . . .	17,640	9,794	7,846	37,660	25,822	11,838	85,344	55,632	29,712	140,644	91,248	49,396
1899 . . .	16,410	8,395	8,015	32,594	33,292	698*	97,358	58,559	38,799	146,362	100,246	46,116
1900 . . .	18,443	10,640	7,803	42,672	27,037	15,635	107,710	59,960	47,750	168,825	97,637	71,188
1901 . . .	15,757	8,636	7,121	46,373	28,255	18,118	109,585	62,808	46,777	171,715	99,699	72,016
1902 . . .	26,293	11,563	14,730	65,930	30,968	34,962	113,439	61,584	51,855	205,662	104,115	101,547
1903 . . .	59,652	13,786	45,866	71,300	36,130	35,170	128,998	62,998	66,000	259,950	112,914	147,036
1904 . . .	69,681	18,397	51,284	49,823	41,568	8,255	151,931	84,616	67,315	271,435	144,581	126,854
1905 . . .	82,437	19,934	62,503	50,525	35,969	14,556	129,115	66,809	62,306	262,077	122,712	139,365
1906 . . .	114,859	23,596	91,263	55,312	41,397	13,915	154,966	65,473	89,493	325,137	130,466	194,671
Seven months ending 31st July, 1906 .	79,098	10,731	68,367	23,836	28,395	4,559*	84,004	39,143	44,861	186,938	78,269	108,669
Seven months ending 31st July, 1907 .	107,151	15,792	91,359	27,003	32,773	5,770*	98,724	48,243	54,481	232,878	96,808	136,070

* Balance inward.

Deaths from Starvation.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): To ask the President of the Local Government Board in what number of cases did a coroner's jury return a verdict from starvation or death accelerated by privation in the year 1906 in London, in the eastern district of London and the union of Whitechapel, respectively; in what union in London did the greatest number of deaths so declared by verdict take place in 1906; and what was the number of cases with like verdict in England and Wales in 1906 outside the Metropolis.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I understand that the number of cases is as follows:—In London, 49; in the eastern district of London, 13; in the Whitechapel union, 7. This was the union in which the greatest number of deaths of the kind referred to took place. The number of cases in which coroners' juries returned a verdict of death due to want, exposure, &c., outside London was 171.

Meal Times for Devonport Dockyard Police.

SIR JOHN BENN (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will take steps during the coming winter to restore to the Metropolitan police, who are on duty in the Devonport Dockyard for eight hours without break, the privilege of being allowed to receive during such period a drink of hot tea, cocoa, coffee, or milk.

(*Answered by Mr. Lambert.*) The practice in question was discontinued early in the year 1906, and it is not considered advisable to revert to it again, as it necessitates a constable leaving his beat during his period of duty. No exception is taken to the men carrying refreshment with them.

Payment for Holidays in Deptford Victualling Yard and West India Dock Naval Stores Depot.

MR. BOWERMAN (Deptford): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the order issued to the officer in charge of works, Greenwich Hospital, as to men who have been discharged on reduction and re-entered within a period of six months being paid for the recognised public holidays is also applicable to the labourers employed at the Deptford Victualling Yard and West India Dock Naval Stores Depot; and, if not, whether the order will be extended to include these men.

(*Answered by Mr. Lambert.*) The Answer is in the affirmative.

Civil Parishes and Liquor Licences.

MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state for England and Wales as a whole, and for each English and Welsh county, the number of civil parishes situated in rural districts and the total population of such civil parishes in each area; and if he will state for England and Wales as a whole, and for each English and Welsh county, the total number of such parishes which are situated in rural districts and have no on-licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors therein, together with the population in each such area for such total number of parishes.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) As regards the first part of the Question, the figures as given in the Local Government Board Statement of the 1st April, 1904, and the Census Return of 1901, are, for the whole of England and Wales, number of civil parishes in rural districts, 12,995; total population, 7,469,488. As regards the second part of the Question, the totals compiled from the Return which I obtained from the various police forces and furnished to my hon. friend on the 14th inst. are, for the whole of England and Wales, number of civil parishes in rural districts with no on-licences, 3,903; population, 575,219.

The figures for each English and Welsh county separately are given in the appended Table:—

County.	(A.) Number of civil parishes in rural districts (on 1st April, 1904).	(B.) Total population of rural districts (Census, 1901).	(C.) Number of civil parishes in rural districts with no "on" licences.	(D.) Total population of civil parishes with no "on" licences (Census 1901).*
England:				
Bedford	127	76,645	11	1,061
Berks	183	125,578	29	4,883
Bucks	216	130,030	50	6,175
Cambridge	129	72,294	13	1,545
Isle of Ely	30	30,766	1	18
Chester	406	169,809	184	28,835
Cornwall	200	192,003	49	11,853
Cumberland	188	100,922	40	5,528
Derby	276	255,014	46	6,586
Devon	414	223,094	115	24,002
Dorset	271	101,657	111	17,058
Durham	227	333,102	56	12,403
Essex	360	240,776	43	6,181
Gloucester	342	229,700	112	21,740
Hereford	244	76,748	121	19,624
Hertford	134	103,273	9	740
Huntingdon	95	36,234	15	1,309
Kent	362	302,906	52	5,628
Lancaster	276	232,472	40	6,860
Leicester	309	137,502	102	8,824
Lincoln	695	238,893	319	43,628
Middlesex	25	51,165	—	—
Monmouth	132	46,397	44	5,661

County.	(A.) Number of civil parishes in rural districts (on 1st April, 1904).	(B.) Total population of rural districts (Census 1901).	(C.) Number of civil parishes in rural districts with no "on" licences.	(D.) Total population of civil parishes with no "on" licences (Census 1901).*
Norfolk	681	258,071	183	22,298
Northampton	291	121,070	71	8,488
Soke of Peterborough	29	10,250	10	1,354
Northumberland	471	124,763	342	36,777
Nottingham	247	118,721	82	11,189
Oxford	272	95,748	75	8,104
Rutland	58	19,709	21	1,858
Salop	235	135,878	88	15,067
Somerset	469	245,829	128	18,392
Southampton	311	197,352	81	12,603
Isle of Wight	30	28,559	4	450
Stafford	217	232,209	49	9,498
Suffolk, East	311	123,639	77	12,272
,, West	168	73,419	33	5,164
Surrey	104	189,291	10	3,429
Sussex, East	131	116,708	23	3,688
,, West	155	86,365	41	4,676
Warwick	246	144,759	83	10,849
Westmoreland	105	38,446	35	6,179
Wilts	310	158,763	69	12,256
Worcester	206	161,360	59	9,001
York, East Riding	324	91,687	132	16,785
,, North Riding	508	133,832	202	21,088
,, West Riding	512	339,963	162	26,916
Total	12,032	6,753,371	3,622	518,523

County.	(A.) Number of civil parishes in rural districts (on 1st April, 1904).	(B.) Total population of rural districts (Census 1901).	(C.) Number of civil parishes in rural districts with no "on" licences.	(D.) Total population of civil parishes with no "on" licences (Census 1901).†
Wales:				
Anglesey - - -	72	34,750	41	10,272
Brecon - - -	86	38,020	37	5,068
Cardigan - - -	95	45,267	36	9,379
Carmarthen - -	79	92,803	9	1,239
Carnarvon - - -	64	68,262	19	4,918
Denbigh - - -	92	90,815	16	1,766
Flint - - - -	41	51,035	5	1,890
Glamorgan - -	133	162,003	33	4,567
Merioneth - - -	33	26,581	7	3,778
Montgomery - -	59	34,806	8	3,302
Pembroke - - -	150	53,705	47	7,461
Radnor - - -	59	18,070	23	3,056
Total - -	963	716,117	281	56,696
Grand total - -	12,995	7,469,488	3,903	575,219

† The figures in this column have been furnished by police authorities and have not been checked with the official Census Report.

Inspection of Mines.

MR. GLOVER (St. Helens): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state the number of times the inspectors and assistant inspectors of mines have inspected the mines during 1906 in the United Kingdom, without any connection with any accident, the number of inspections made in cases of fatal accidents and non-fatal accidents, the number of inquests the inspectors and assistant inspectors have attended during 1906, and the number of times they have attended the police courts during 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The number of inspections of mines made by the inspectors of 1906 (excluding those of one inspector who retired in the course of the year and for whom the figures are not available) was as follows:—(a) in connection with accidents, fatal or non-fatal, 2,889; (b) otherwise than in connection with accidents, 5,785. The number of inquests on mining accidents attended in 1906 was 1,032; and the number of attendances at police or sheriff courts in mining cases, 37. One inspector is unable to distinguish the number of inspections in connection with non-fatal accidents in coal mines, and they are therefore included under (b). It will be understood that when visiting a mine to investigate the circumstances of an accident an inspector would often take the opportunity of inspecting generally the workings of the mine.

The Edalji Case—Charges Against the Staffordshire Police.

MR. STAVELEY-HILL (Staffordshire, Kingswinford): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is now in a position to say that there is no ground for the grave charges made against the Staffordshire police in connection with the case of G. Edalji.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) Many allegations have been made against the Staffordshire police in connection with this case, but in my opinion they acted throughout in entire good faith, and there is no justification for the serious charges which have been made against them.

Scottish Emigrants.

MR. J. D. WHITE: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can say how many emigrants of Scottish nationality have sailed from Scottish ports during the first seven months of the present year for Canada, for other British Colonies, and for foreign countries, respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) Statement showing the number of passengers (including cabin passengers) of Scottish nationality who left or arrived at the ports of Scotland for or from British North America, other British Colonies, and non-European foreign countries, respectively, during the seven months ending 31st July, 1907:—

	British North America.	Other British Colonies.	Non-European Foreign Countries.	Total.
Outgoing passengers from Scottish ports -	19,720	3	12,666	32,389
Incoming passengers to Scottish ports - -	873	—	2,934	3,807
Balance outward -	18,847	3	9,732	28,582

Glasgow University—Chair of Hebrew.

MR. WATT (Glasgow, College): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that the Hebrew chair in Glasgow University is not open to candidates other than ordained ministers of the Established Church of Scotland; if so, whether this system has his sanction, in view of the fact that part of the salary is paid out of Parliamentary grants; and whether he will take steps to abolish this test for teachers.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I am aware of the position as stated by my hon. friend, but no change can be effected without legislation; and I am not prepared to give any undertaking on the subject.

Retired Army Officers on Civil Case—Deductions for Pensions.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that retired officers of the British service employed on civil duty are mulcted in 10 per cent. of their salaries on account of their pensions, while retired officers of the Indian Army, employed on exactly the same kind of duty, suffer no deduction from their salaries on account of their pensions; and that the retired officers of the British service have smaller pensions than the retired officers of the Indian Army; and whether he will consider the justice of abolishing this discrimination, and permit the retired British officers to draw their full pay while performing civil duties and, if necessary, amend the Superannuation Act and Regulations of 1887 to meet the case.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The facts are as stated; but, as I explained in reply to a Question by my hon. friend on the 22nd instant, though for administrative reasons the deduction is made from the civil salary, it is intended to be equivalent to the suspension of so much of the retired pay as may be deemed to be compensation for loss of employment. There is no intention of paying for the civil duties, as such, less than whatever may be the recognised rate of remuneration for those duties. Accordingly, where the retired pay is not a charge against the British Exchequer, there is no deduction from the civil salary. Whether, in such circumstances, a reduction in the rate of retired pay should be made by the authority which bears the charge for the retired pay is a matter for consideration by that authority; and, on that point, so far as it affects the Indian Army, I must refer my hon. friend to the Secretary of State for India. As I stated on the 22nd instant, I see no sufficient reason for amending The Superannuation Act, 1887, and the rules made thereunder.

Mathematics in Irish National Schools.

MR. MOORE (Armagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a new programme of mathematics for Irish national schools is in preparation; and, if so, when it will be issued.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the programmes for national schools, including the programme for mathematics whether taught as an extra subject outside school hours or as an optional subject during school hours, are at present being issued to managers and teachers.

Purchase of Estate of Mr. E. M. Stack.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state if Mr. E. M. Stack has offered for sale to the Congested Districts Board his tenanted and untenanted lands at Mevoo and Ballyconry, North Kerry; and, if so, whether he can state how many acres of tenanted land and how many acres of untenanted land has Mr. Stack offered for sale.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Mr. E. M. Stack has offered to sell to the Congested Districts Board 873 acres of land, of which 130 acres are untenanted. The Board are not, at present, in a position to make an offer for the purchase of this property.

MR. FLAVIN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that representations and petitions have been brought to the notice of the Estates Commissioners and their inspector, Mr. West, in connection with 144 acres of grazing and mountain turbary land situate in Knocknacaheragh, on Lord Listowel's estate, electoral division of Kilmeary, North Kerry; whether he is aware that Mrs. Kelly and Joseph Meade, who respectively held eighty-five and seventy-eight acres of land each, have signed agreements to purchase the 144 acres of mountain and grazing lands between them in addition to their already large holdings of eighty-five and seventy-eight acres each; and whether, owing to the representations that have been made, the Estates Commissioners will refuse to sanction the sale of this 144 acres of grazing and untenanted land to Meade and Kelly, more especially as there are in the immediate vicinity a number of uneconomic holdings.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received representations to the effect stated in the Question, and will give the matter due consideration before sanctioning the advances which have been applied for by the purchasing tenants.

Alleged Illegal Eviction at Tarbert.

MR. FLAVIN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state if Captain Leslie, D.L., of Tarbert, North Kerry, applied for and was given the services of two policemen by Sergeant Curran on Saturday, 29th June, 1907, to protect a bailiff to carry out an eviction after sunset; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any steps to stop this illegal practice.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am informed that there was no eviction after sunset in this case, but on the date mentioned a warrant for the possession of a tenement was executed by the police at about eleven o'clock a.m. The proceedings were at the suit of Captain Leslie against Daniel Dalton. The warrant was addressed to the police by the magistrate who made the order, and there was nothing illegal in the action of the police.

Purchase of the Furlong, Brown, Bird and Harding Estates.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork County, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board have purchased the Furlong, Brown, Bird, and Harding properties in Kilcrohane parish, county Cork; and, if so, can he state the price paid, arrears due at date of purchase, and yearly rent of each estate, also the total amount of first-term, second-term, and non-judicial rents, and from what date the Congested Districts Board will be liable for interest on purchase-money.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Congested Districts Board have purchased the estates named, the required particulars in regard to which are as follows:—

	Furlong Estate.			Brown Estate.			Bird and Harding Estate.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Price paid - - -	6,400	0	0	735	0	0	3,830	0	0
Arrears due - - -	173	11	7	13	13	6	104	5	0
First-term rents - -	119	18	4	34	14	0	78	11	0
Second term rents - -	68	12	0	—			16	12	0
Non-judicial rents - -	126	14	0	9	0	0	125	10	6
Total rental - - -	315	4	4	43	14	0	220	13	6
Interest payable from -	29th Sept., 1906			29th Sept., 1906			1st Nov., 1906		

The Board have also purchased a lease of mining rights producing a rent of £40 a year on the Furlong estate.

Description of Bills.

MR. WALKER (Leicestershire, Melton): To ask the Prime Minister whether he will arrange that, from the beginning of next session, all Bills introduced into this House, other than those applying to the British Dominions beyond the seas, shall bear upon the outside some indication to show whether they apply to the whole of the United Kingdom or only to one or more of its constituent parts.

(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) At present every Bill applying exclusively to Scotland or Ireland contains the word "Scotland" or "Ireland," as the case requires. It might, perhaps, be possible by means of directions given to the Government draftsman, in the case of Government Bills, and to the Public Bill Office, in the case of private Members' Bills, to have Bills distinguished by the letters E., S., I., E.S., E.I., or U.K., so as to indicate their application. But there is no ground for supposing that the existing practice has caused difficulty or given rise to general complaint. And the multiplication of small rules of this kind is much to be deprecated. They cause delay. They are apt to be forgotten or overlooked, and their non-observance supplies a pretext for raising petty points of order, and for demands that a Bill be reprinted and re-issued in a correct form.

Record of Parliamentary Time.

MR. WALKER: To ask the Prime Minister whether, in order that there may be an official record of the time spent by this House upon the various matters that are brought before it, he will arrange that, from the beginning of next session, the official Report shall mark the point reached at each half hour, as is done in the Parliamentary proceedings published by *The Times* newspaper.

(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman:*) There is no difficulty in marking the point reached at each half hour in the Report of Debates, But this could not be done in the official Report of proceedings. Hours may, and often do, elapse between one entry and the next. Moreover, in the case of amendments, there is often only a general entry "Amendments made." Indeed, the whole system of recording the proceedings is inconsistent with the suggestion made.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

The Hague Conference and Armaments.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the resolution as to the desirability of resuming the consideration of the question of the growing expenditure on armaments carried at The Hague Conference, and in view of his announcement as to the additional battleship as part of this year's shipbuilding programme, he now proposes to proceed with the construction of such ship.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. LAMBERT, Devonshire, South Molton): It would be premature to anticipate the results of The Hague Conference, which has not yet concluded its deliberations.

Naval Works Acts.

MR. MURRAY MACDONALD (Falkirk Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will give a list of the works constructed under the Naval Works Acts which have not been completed, or which have been abandoned, or which have proved to be unnecessary, and of the amounts spent on each of them.

MR. LAMBERT: I am not quite sure if I understand what my hon. friend requires. A copy of the statement showing the original and revised cost of these works is being sent him, and will, I hope, afford him the requisite information.

Labour Conditions in Dockyards Abroad.

MR. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can yet make a statement in respect to the hours and conditions of labour in the dockyards abroad.

MR. LAMBERT: Some points of detail still remain to be settled before any statement can be made.

Home Fleet and the Autumn Manœuvres.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the official intimation that the ships of the Home Fleet will take part in the autumn manœuvres this year refers only to ships of the Home Fleet manned with nucleus crews, or to the division formed in March last and constituted from battleships and cruisers withdrawn from other fleets, or whether both are included.

MR. LAMBERT: Thirty-eight fully manned vessels of the Home Fleet will take part in the exercises, including the Nore division of battleships and cruisers.

MR. NIELD: Is it proposed that any of the vessels should be manned by nucleus crews?

*MR. LAMBERT: Nucleus crew vessels will not take part in these exercises.

German Naval Policy.

MR. NIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether His Majesty's Government have the services of a naval attaché in Berlin; if so, how it comes that the Admiralty are in ignorance of the progress made by the German Government in carrying out their shipbuilding programmes of 1905–6 and 1906–7, and have not obtained the information available to the Press of this country; and whether the Board intend to take any, and what, steps to ensure their being made acquainted promptly with all information that can be legitimately acquired by their representatives abroad.

*MR. LAMBERT: The Admiralty have no knowledge of any official information published by the German Government on this subject. They are satisfied with the information supplied by their naval attaché at Berlin, which they do not propose to divulge.

Pimlico Clothing Factory—Cutters' Wages.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the wages paid to the cutters employed at the Pimlico Clothing Factory are below those rates paid by private firms for similar work in provincial towns, such as Leicester; and whether he will at once take steps to make the War Office model employers.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.; for Mr. HALDANE): The question as to whether the rates of pay of cutters in the Pimlico Clothing Factory should be revised is now under consideration.

Pimlico Clothing Factory—Warehousemen's Wages.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that there are many married men with families employed at the Pimlico clothing factory as warehousemen at wages as low as 23s. per week; and whether he is aware that this payment is far below that prevailing at any other public authority for similar work; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

CAPTAIN NORTON (for Mr. HALDANE): There are no warehousemen in the Pimlico factory. If the hon. Member refers to the storehousemen or porters, I would inform him that their wages were specially raised to 23s. a week on the 1st April, 1906, to bring them on a level with the minimum rate for unskilled labourers in the London area, and I do not propose to increase them.

Royal Commission on Indian Decentralisation.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is in a position to give the names of the members of the Royal Commission on Indian Decentralisation.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): The Commission is composed as follows:—Chairman—Sir H. W. Primrose, K.C.B., C.S.I., I.S.O. (Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue). Members—Sir F. S. P. Lely, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. (lately Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces); Sir S. W. Edgerley, K.C.V.O., C.I.E. (Member of the Council of the Governor of Bombay); Mr. R. C. Dutt, C.I.E. (Indian Civil Service, retired); Mr. W. S. Meyer, C.I.E. (Secretary to the Government of India, Military Finance Branch); Mr. W. L. Hichens (lately Colonial Treasurer of the Transvaal).

Affairs in the Punjab.

MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is in a position to make any statement to the House as to the condition of affairs in the Punjab, and as to when it will be possible for the Government of India to allow the persons who have been deported to Mandalay to return to their homes.

MR. MORLEY: The most recent reports mark a gradual but distinct improvement in the Punjab, judging from the surface. If this improvement continues somewhat longer, and when we have good reason to believe that the two persons referred to in the Question are not likely to renew the course of mischievous action that brought them within reach of the law of 1818 for the security of the British dominions from internal commotion, then the time will have come for releasing them from the operation of that law. Nobody will be better pleased at the early arrival of that result than His Majesty's Government.

Jamaica Legislature.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary for the Colonies if he is aware that in Jamaica there is not a single coloured man in the Legislature or even occupying any position of importance under the Government; and, in view of the fact that much of the discontent that at present exists in the island is due to this fact, whether it is the intention of the Government in the near future to institute legislation having for its object the entrusting of the people of that island with larger powers as to the management of their home affairs.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The hon. Member's Question is based on incorrect information. At the last election for the Legislative Council I understand that several coloured gentlemen were returned. No modification of the constitution of Jamaica is at present contemplated.

Indian Coolies in Jamaica.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state whether a petition has been received from the National (Negro) Baptist Convention Foreign Board, which has a membership of 33,000 and some 100,000 to 120,000 adherents, or a total of nearly 150,000 of the population out of some 750,000 in the island, praying for a restriction of the importation of Indian coolies into Jamaica; and, if so, can he inform the House what action, if any, the Government intend to take in regard to the matter.

MR. CHURCHILL: The petition to which the hon. Member refers has been received and answered. It is not proposed to take any further action in the matter.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state the number of Indian coolies imported into Jamaica during the past twenty years, giving the number for each year separately; the precise conditions under which they have been so imported; the length of their contracts of service; and the wages paid to such coolies.

MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir. I regret to say I am not in a position to afford this information which would involve much labour and some expense.

Jamaica—Emigration of Negroes.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state the number of negroes who have left Jamaica during the last twenty years in search of work elsewhere, stipulating the number for each year so leaving the island.

MR. CHURCHILL: I am unable to supply the hon. Member with the information which he seeks, and I do not think that it would be possible to obtain it.

Coolie Labour on Jamaica Sugar Plantations.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state whether the sugar planters and others employing the coolies imported into Jamaica are subsidised in regard to same; and, if so, by whom such subsidy is paid, the Home or Colonial Government, and the extent per annum of such subsidy.

MR. CHURCHILL: The sugar planters pay somewhat less than the total cost of the introduction of the coolies; the balance is borne by the Colonial Government. The excess amount which will be paid by the Colonial Government this year for the introduction of coolies has been estimated at £1,752.

West Indian Native Labour Regulations.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): On behalf of the hon. Member for Gravesend, I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether there are any regulations in existence in Trinidad or Jamaica, or other of the West Indian islands, to provide for proper protection of Natives recruited for places outside the islands, such as Panama, which assure that the nature of the occupation and the terms of contract as to pay, residence, food, hours of work, holidays, and repatriation, are made clear to the emigrating indentured labourers; and, if so, will he lay them upon the Table.

MR. CHURCHILL: A Return will be laid upon the Table of the House giving a list of any ordinances dealing with the emigration of labourers from the British West Indian Colonies to foreign countries, and copies of all the laws in question and of any important regulations issued under the laws will be sent to the Library of the House of Commons. This will be more economical and will involve less labour than the printing of all the laws and regulations in the form of a Blue-book.

Crime in South Africa.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will state the total number of crimes committed in South Africa from 1st January to the 31st July, 1907; and what were the proportion of convictions per thousand of the particular nationalities among Chinese, Natives, East Indians, and whites respectively.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State regrets that the information at his disposal does not enable him to answer the hon. Member's inquiry.

Concessions in Nigeria.

MR. NOLAN (Louth, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether a petition has been addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies from Southern Nigeria, West Africa, signed by the Awujale and Chiefs of Ijebu Ode, asking for protection and calling attention to the action of a European named Mr. Robert Brown, who has taken possession of a portion of their territory of a total approximate area of 600 square miles; whether Mr. Brown has, by force, prevented the natives from carrying on their customary business on the same; whether, as a consequence, unrest prevails in the district and that a Native war is likely to result, calling for the intervention of the forces of the Crown; whether he can state on what grounds Mr. Brown bases his claim; whether Mr. Brown has asked for and obtained promises of armed support from the Governor; and whether the Papers connected with this matter will be submitted to the House, and, if so, at about what date.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has received a petition from the Awujale and Chiefs of Ijebu Ode relating to an agreement made by them with Mr. Brown under which Mr. Brown claims the right to cut timber over an area of 100 square miles, not 600 as stated in the Question. The point at issue is the interpretation of the agreement. The Secretary of State is not aware that Mr. Brown has used force in support of his claim; nor that there is any such unrest in the district as would be likely to require the intervention of the forces of the Colonial Government; nor that Mr. Brown has asked for and obtained promises of armed support from the Government. The Secretary of State is giving the matter his personal attention, he has received a deputation on the subject representing the Awujale and Chiefs, and is now consulting the Governor, who is at present in England. The hon. Member will observe that the matter has not yet reached a stage at which the Secretary of State can determine whether Papers should be laid.

MR. NOLAN: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman if it is a fact that the chiefs representing the people owning this territory waited upon Lieutenant Hearne, the District Commissioner, and pointed out to him in the hearing of all of them that the agreement made with Mr. Brown gave him a right only to prospect the forest, and that after the expiration of six months he was to return and get the concession granted, and that it gave him no right to drive anyone from the forest?

MR. CHURCHILL said that if the hon. Member had any information to send him it would be considered, but he could not on the spur of the moment enter into details as to Nigerian administration; the whole matter was being fully considered.

MR. NOLAN: Is it not the fact that Mr. Brown claimed 600 square miles and not 100, and that the consideration he gave for it was £20?

MR. CHURCHILL: I am told it is not 600 square miles but 100, and I conceive the sum paid was larger than that mentioned by the hon. Gentleman.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): Is it the fact that natives who had licences to cut timber have been actually flogged and imprisoned by the soldiers employed by Mr. Brown and will the right hon. Gentleman order their release?

MR. CHURCHILL: If there has been any improper action the Secretary of State will certainly look into the matter.

Imperial Conference Secretariat.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can give any information, before the House rises, regarding the constitution of the

Imperial Secretariat, the creation of which was decided upon at the Imperial Conference.

Mr. CHURCHILL: At the Imperial Conference the Secretary of State indicated his willingness, first, so to separate the departments of the Colonial Office that there will be a distinct division dealing with the affairs of the Colonies possessing responsible government; and, secondly, to appoint a member of the Colonial Office to be Permanent Secretary to the Conference, so as to focus all business connected with it. The Secretary of State has made a statement in another place which sets forth the arrangements which are being made to constitute a separate division of the Office to deal with the self-governing Colonies and Protectorates or Possessions geographically connected with them. Mr. C. P. Lucas, the Senior Assistant Under-Secretary of State, will be head of that division, and Mr. H. W. Just, an Assistant Under-Secretary of State, who held the position of joint secretary to the last Conference, and has a special knowledge of South African affairs, having visited that country with a former Secretary of State for the Colonies, will be Permanent Secretary to the Conference. A despatch explaining these arrangements in detail will be addressed to the Governors of the self-governing Colonies and will be laid on the Table.

In reply to a further Question,

Mr. CHURCHILL added: There will be two main departments—the Colonial Department and the Dominions Department. The latter will have the responsibility of the self-governing Colonies and the Possessions geographically associated with them. The Protectorates will be under the Colonial Department.

Mr. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square): Will the position of Mr. Just, the secretary to the Conference, be in the Dominions Department?

Mr. CHURCHILL: Yes, Sir; it will be in association with the Dominions Department, but it is an extra feature of the Dominions Department. It is that portion of the Dominions Department which will be charged with the duty of preserving the link between Conference and Conference.

*Mr. REES: Does this leave the Crown Agents' position as before?

Mr. CHURCHILL: There will be no alteration there.

Chinese Labour in the Transvaal Mines.

Mr. MACKARNESS: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Colonial Office has received any information from the Governor of the Transvaal as to the number of Chinese labourers in the mines whose contracts have already expired, and as to the date of their deportation to China.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I made the inquiry as desired by the hon. and learned Member in his previous Questions of last week and learn that the next shipload of labourers leaves Durban on or about 1st September in the steamship "Swanley" to the number of about 2,350. A portion of this number no doubt, but I do not know how many, are being repatriated on other grounds than that of the expiry of their contracts.

Mr. MACKARNESS asked whether the right hon. Gentleman had seen the statement made by the Prime Minister of the Transvaal that 30,000 Kaffirs had applied for labour in the mines and had gone elsewhere, and whether it would not be possible to arrange for the acceleration of the departure of the Chinese coolies.

Mr. CHURCHILL said that he had seen that statement, but he understood that the policy of the Transvaal Government was that the Chinese coolies now employed in South Africa should be repatriated in a steady stream on the termination of their indentures. While he could not hold out the hope that the Government would force forward that process, it was open to the Transvaal Government to accelerate the departure by any means they thought fit.

Repatriation of Chinese.

Mr. SCOTT (Ashton-under-Lyne): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state the total number of Chinese coolies who were repatriated in the steamship "Heliopolis" on 2nd July, and how many of them were repatriated under Section 7 of Ordinance 27 of 1905 as being a danger to the exercise of proper control on any mine.

MR. CHURCHILL: The total number repatriated on the "Heliopolis" is understood to have been 1,948 and of these 413 or 414 were repatriated under Section 7 of Ordinance 27 of 1905.

Transvaal Labour Ordinance.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has yet received precise information with regard to the essential provisions of the Bill introduced into the Transvaal Legislature for prolonging the Transvaal Labour Ordinance.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State understands that the essential points of the Bill are (1) the Labour Importation Ordinance and Regulations are kept alive in respect of each labourer now in the country until the expiry of the existing contract for three years and, in addition, in the case of each labourer, for such further period, not exceeding two months, as will enable repatriation in accordance with the Ordinances to take place; and (2) existing bonds entered into by importers to repatriate labourers at their own cost at the end of the contracts are kept alive.

MR. HAROLD COX: Then the same Ordinance has in fact been re-enacted?

MR. CHURCHILL said that the same Ordinance had been re-enacted with a provision that the mineowner was bound to pay the cost of repatriation, though no renewal would be allowed.

*MR. MACKARNESS asked whether the servile conditions, expressly prohibited by the terms of the Constitution, were to be re-enacted for three years.

MR. CHURCHILL said that the Ordinance had not yet come to this country, and he could not forecast what would be the action of the Government upon it. But it appeared to him that the Transvaal Government had preferred to terminate rather than to touch the details of the system of Chinese labour which prevailed.

Company Promotion in Egypt.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Lord Cromer prescribed certain restrictions upon company promotion in Egypt, with a view to the protection of the investing public; and if the Answer be in the affirmative, whether he will inform the House what such restrictions were.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Sir EDWARD GREY): My right hon. friend can only refer the hon. Member to the heading "Mining Concessions" in Lord Cromer's Report for 1903, page 29.

Denshawi Prisoners.

MR. LEHMANN (Leicestershire, Market Harborough): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state where the prisoners sentenced to penal servitude at Denshawi are carrying out their sentences; what is the nature of their labour, and if they are in irons; and whether, if they had been tried under the ordinary law, such punishments as they are now suffering could have been imposed on them.

MR. RUNCIMAN: My right hon. friend has not the special information asked for on these points, but the sentences of imprisonment are served in the same way as if they had been imposed by the ordinary law.

Denshawi Trials.

MR. MACKARNESS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the decree under which the special tribunal which tried the Denshawi prisoners was set up in any way prescribes what law is to be administered or what punishments may be inflicted; and whether he can say if the law actually applied in the Denshawi trials was British, Egyptian, or Mahomedan.

MR. RUNCIMAN: My right hon. friend can only refer the hon. Member to the text of the decree, which has been laid before Parliament, and to the observations of Lord Cromer as to the kind of punishments which should in future be prescribed if the Special Tribunal were again called into existence.

Egyptian National Party's Platform.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received an outline of the views and wishes of the Egyptian nation as regards changes in the administration of Egypt which have already been sanctioned by the general assembly at its recent meeting, forwarded to him as Member of the House of Commons by W. A. Hafiz-Amoud, the proposals for the establishment of the constitution being based on the schemes put forward by Lord Dufferin in 1883; whether he is aware that the programme of the Egyptian national party embraces free and compulsory education in kuttobs and primary schools, Arabic being the medium of instruction in all schools, the conferring of legislative powers on the general assembly and legislative council in matters relating purely to Egyptian affairs, the gradual substitution of Egyptian for European officials, and the transference of the criminal jurisdiction of the Consular Courts to Mixed Courts with subsidiary grants; and whether, having regard to the fact that these proposals are authoritatively declared to constitute the minimum of the reforms necessary for Egyptian needs and aspirations, the Government will take any and, if so, what steps in the immediate future towards their concession.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: My right hon. friend has received a communication of the nature described by the hon. Member. But he has nothing to add to the statement of policy which he made in the debate on the Foreign Office Vote.

Denshawi Trials.

Sir W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the decree of 1895, under which the Denshawi prisoners were tried, excludes all right of appeal against sentences; and whether this also precludes the exercise of clemency on the part of the Khedive in the case of capital sentences such as is provided for by the ordinary law of Egypt.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The text of the decree, which the hon. Member will find on Page 3 of Parliamentary Paper "Egypt No. 3 (1906)" states, in the last paragraph of Article 4, that the sentences of the Special Tribunal shall not be subject to appeal. If the hon. Member will refer to page 24 of the same Paper, he will see that the adoption of some procedure by which the decisions of the Special Tribunal should be confirmed by some superior authority is under consideration, and the Tribunal will not be called into existence without some such provision.

Nickel Coinage.

Mr. ESSEX (Gloucestershire, Cirencester): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will have placed in the Library or other room of this House, for the inspection of Members, specimens of all the nickel, or other inexpensive alloys, coins now in use in the various Colonies and Dependencies of the Empire.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The coins may be inspected at the Mint; but if there is any general demand to have them exhibited in the Library, I will arrange to have specimens shown there next session. I would, however, point out to my hon friend that the alloys of which those coins are made are more costly than bronze, and cannot therefore be strictly described as inexpensive.

Mr. ESSEX: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will in all future issues of British coins of low values now minted in bronze have such coins made of similar light and cleanly form and metal as the new nickel coins recently minted for the use of the British Colonies in Eastern and Western Africa.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The new nickel-bronze coin (10 cents) now being issued for Uganda is heavier than the Imperial bronze penny, and the nickel-bronze penny for West Africa is of the same weight. My right hon. friend does not believe that the substitution of nickel-bronze for bronze would be satisfactory to those who use most largely the existing subsidiary bronze coinage. Aluminium would not be a satisfactory metal for our coins, and both nickel-bronze and aluminium would be more costly. A concurrent issue and circulation of nickel and bronze coins would be attended with great practical difficulties, and the substitution of nickel for bronze in a coinage in which silver pieces of small denomination are so largely used would probably lead to much confusion and inconvenience.

In reply to a further Question by Mr. ESSEX,

*MR. RUNCIMAN said the possibility of confusion was a very serious one, particularly with people not accustomed to make the distinction. The West African nickel coins were distinguished by being perforated. The statement as to comparative cost was based on the actual cost of the bronze, nickel-bronze, and aluminium coins now being issued by the Mint.

Mortlake Doctor and Death Certificates.

MR. MYER: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to a case at Mortlake on the 22nd instant, in which a certain doctor appeared to answer six summonses against him for having refused on the 8th and 11th July, without reasonable cause, to give certificates of the cause of death of three infants, therefore necessitating inquests to be held when he would have been entitled to fees amounting to six guineas; and whether he will instruct coroners to disallow fees to medical men, although called as witnesses, if in the opinion of the coroner there was no substantial grounds for the holding of an inquest.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I beg to answer this Question on behalf of my right hon. friend. I cannot express any opinion on this case, which appears from the newspaper reports to have been adjourned by the magistrates for further consideration by a full Bench; but, in any case, I have no authority to issue such instructions to coroners as are suggested in the Question.

Southwark Police Court.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who is responsible for selecting the site upon which the Southwark police court, Tooley Street, is erected; whether any inquiry was made to secure a site in a more central and convenient position; whether the land is held on lease or whether the freehold has been purchased, and, if so, the cost; and whether he can state the total cost of the structure, and whether it is finished or whether any further expenditure is contemplated.

MR. GLADSTONE: The Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District is primarily responsible for selecting sites for police courts, but the approval of the Chief Magistrate, the Commissioner of Police, and the Secretary of State is required before a site is finally decided on. No site of sufficient area in a more suitable position was available. The land was freehold subject only to a perpetual charge of £24 19s. 8d. in lieu of land tax redeemed. The site cost £8,161, and the total cost of building was £28,027. No further expenditure is contemplated.

Jersey Battle of Flowers.

MR. NIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been directed to the case of Mr. Cecil Douglas, of Ealing, who, during a battle of flowers at Jersey, a few days ago, knocked off a policeman's helmet with a light basket, and was sentenced by Judge Vaudin to twenty-four hours imprisonment, without the option of a fine, during which time he was confined as an ordinary criminal, and was without food (except a glass of milk, given by medical orders) during the whole of his imprisonment; whether he is aware that the incident has aroused feelings of indignation throughout the island of Jersey; and whether he will cause inquiry to be made into the matter.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have communicated with the Lieutenant-Governor, who informs me that the magistrate is of opinion that such a fête as the battle of flowers in Jersey is only possible if any attempt at rowdyism is put down with a firm hand. In the case referred to by the hon. Member it appears that the defendant committed an undoubted assault, striking a policeman with a basket held in both his hands. The sentence passed on him only involved detention from about 11 a.m. till about 5.30 p.m. on the same day. The glass of milk mentioned in the Question was in addition to the ordinary first-class prison diet.

MR. NIELD: Is the right hon. gentleman aware that first-class prison diet in Jersey is bread and water?

MR. GLADSTONE: Then the glass of milk was in addition.

The Sun Inn, Holywell.

MR. CHARLES ROBERTS (Lincoln): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the case of the Sun Inn, Holywell, the licence of which, though taken out, has not been used for the purpose of sale for the last six years, but which it is now attempted to revive by means of repeated applications for transfer; and whether, in view of the decision in Reg. *v.* Gotham (1898), he would consider the desirability of drawing the attention of clerks of justices to the necessity of preventing such revival of licences declared by the Courts to be extinct.

MR. GLADSTONE: I gathered from the newspaper cuttings with which my hon. friend has been good enough to furnish me that the question of the transfer of this licence is still under the consideration of the Bench, who are aware of the decision in the case referred to in the Question. I do not think it would be expedient for me to attempt to advise magistrates' clerks on this subject.

Australian Tariff.

MR. HAROLD COX: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will publish at the earliest possible date a Parliamentary Paper showing the changes effected by the new Australian tariff in the duties on British goods.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): An edition of the new Australian tariff with a comparative statement of the duties previously in force on British goods will be issued at as early a date as possible.

Austria Hungary—New Tariff.

MR. C. E. PRICE (Edinburgh, Central): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the statement in the Consular Report from Austria-Hungary (3900) that the new tariff must be largely responsible for the general increase in prices, and which has made living in Austria dearer than ever; that this increase in prices is not confined to imported articles, as the manufacturers in the country understand how to utilise the additional protection by raising prices to home consumers; whether he can state the average amount of *ad valorem* duties under the former tariff and under the new; and whether he can state if an increase in wages has been made corresponding with the increased cost of living.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I have seen the statement referred to. The Board of Trade have already published two Returns giving information with regard to the rates of the new Austria-Hungary Tariff (Cd. 1672/03 and Cd. 2917/06), but it is not practicable to give the average *ad valorem* equivalent of the very varying rates of duty. As regards the question as to any recent increase of wages in Austria-Hungary I am having inquiries made.

Coal Trade.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if the latest Returns show any slackening of the abnormal demand for coal from the continent; and if he can give the amount of the export of coal from the United Kingdom during the months of June and July of each of the years 1905, 1906, and 1907.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am informed on inquiry at the Customs that there is at present no indication of a slackening in the demand for British coal on the continent. I will have a statement with regard to the export of coal from the United Kingdom for the months named printed in the Votes.

Joint Stock Companies and Municipal Government.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can see his way to introduce legislation to give joint stock companies representation on local bodies in the same proportion with and in like manner as representation is allowed to compound householders.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): As I stated in reply to a similar Question on the 19th inst., I am not able to promise to introduce a Bill on this subject.

Wolverhampton Unemployed.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has received an application from the town clerk of Wolverhampton on behalf of his distress committee, asking for the sum of £150 for the purpose of finding employment for the unemployed by schemes of afforestation; and whether, as this application was made before the last £200,000 was granted, and that he made a further application, he will say if there is any reason why the sum asked for has not been granted to this district, where afforestation is badly needed and where good work has already been done by this form of beautifying the landscape.

MR. JOHN BURNS: On the 30th March last I received an application from the distress committee for a payment from the grant of £150 to be expended in afforestation operations next winter. It appeared to me, however, that I could not properly make a payment out of the grant voted in the year 1906–7 in respect of works of afforestation to be carried out in the winter of 1907–8. The further application made to me by the distress committee was received on the 3rd April, when the period during which any payment could be made out of the grant had expired. I cannot at present say whether there will be exceptional need for assistance in the provision of temporary work for the unemployed at Wolverhampton next winter, but if later in the year this should appear to be probable and the distress committee renewed their application I should be prepared to consider it.

Wayland Workhouse.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his Board is attempting, through a threat of dissolution by their inspector, to force the Board of Guardians of Wayland, Norfolk, to build a new workhouse at a probable cost of £20,000, the present workhouse having been built for 300 inmates and containing now under 100; and whether, under the circumstances, he will postpone the matter until the Poor Law Commission has made its report.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The condition of the existing workhouse is very unsatisfactory, and the Local Government Board through their inspector and otherwise have for some time past been urging the guardians to provide better accommodation. I do not think that there is any sufficient reason for postponing the matter until the Poor Law Commissioners have made their report. The need for action is recognised by the guardians themselves, who have lately resolved to provide a new infirmary, but I have not at present received the details of the proposal.

MR. FELL: Cannot the existing building be repaired instead of putting up a new building?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am, I believe, to receive a deputation on that point.

Tidworth Barracks Contract.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury by what date the contractor for the building of the cavalry barracks at Tidworth is under an obligation to complete the building, and what weekly penalties will be enforced in the event of non-fulfilment of the terms of the contract.

CAPTAIN NORTON: Perhaps the hon. Member will allow me to answer this Question. The contract date for completion of these stables is 30th January next. The penalties for non-completion under the contract have been fixed at a figure which it is considered is ample to safeguard the Department.

Post Office and Leadless-Glaze Ware.

MR. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General what progress has been recently made in his attempts to introduce leadless-glaze ware in the Post Office Contracts.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I am sorry to say that my experience with leadless-glazed insulators which have been bought in large quantities for years, has not so far been altogether satisfactory. Up to now the glaze is so much inferior to the lead-glaze as to affect adversely the insulation of a telegraph line. I am, nevertheless, still using a considerable number of leadless-glazed insulators where it is possible, and I have been in communication with my right hon. friend the Member for the

Forest of Dean with the view of increasing the number of firms who will make them at a reasonable price, and I hope with improved insulation.

Special Education Grant.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if the expenditure upon new schools to be provided under the special grant will be controlled and supervised by local education authorities; and, if so, whether the lump sum thus paid to the authorities will be subject to Government audit and to the surrender of unexpended surplus.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The grant referred to will only be made in aid of expenditure actually incurred by the local authority, consequently no question of surrender is involved. The expenditure will be audited in the same manner as the other accounts of the local education authority. The Board's approval will be required to the plans of any building in aid of which a grant is made, and in considering whether the whole, or, if not, what proportion, of the cost shall be met from the grant the Board will, of course, ascertain that no excessive expenditure has been incurred.

Penmachno School.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to the fact that a temporary school has been recently opened to relieve the overcrowding of Penmachno non-provided school; that His Majesty's inspector reported that it was essential that a certificated teacher should be employed to take charge of this school; that after eleven months such a teacher has been procured, and that the local education authority now decline to confirm his appointment; and what steps the Board of Education propose to take in the matter.

MR. MCKENNA: I understand that a teacher, though not a certificated teacher, is employed at present in the temporary building. I am in communication with the inspector and the local education authority as to the advisability or otherwise of replacing him by a certificated teacher.

Penrhyndeudraeth School Cleaner.

LORD R. CECIL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can afford any official assistance to enable the cleaner of the Penrhyndeudraeth voluntary school to recover the 15s. due to her on the 30th June last, and unpaid by the local education authority.

MR. MCKENNA: No, Sir; as I have already stated, I have received no complaints from the managers as to the matter referred to, and until any such complaint is received I have no jurisdiction to intervene.

LORD R. CECIL: Is the House to understand that this poor woman has no remedy?

MR. MCKENNA: She has no remedy as far as I am concerned.

LORD R. CECIL: What does the right hon. Gentleman propose to do——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. This is becoming like a Court of law.

Mortomley School Dispute.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is now in a position to state if the local education authority has paid the salaries due to the teachers of the Mortomley Catholic School.

MR. MCKENNA: I understand that the salaries have been paid.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans): And has the right hon. Gentleman expressed his displeasure at this abominable delay on the part of the local education authority?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Llanethian School.

LORD R. CECIL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education what steps should have been taken by the managers of the Llanethian School in 1906 to obtain a teacher at the salary then offered by the local authority.

MR. McKENNA: One of the obstacles in the way of obtaining a teacher at the salary then offered was that the managers had not kept the teacher's house in good repair. I cannot, of course, state all the possible steps that the managers might have taken, but to remedy that particular state of things was certainly one of them.

Grants for New Schools.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education by what date it will be necessary for local education authorities to place their claims for a share in the £100,000 for the erection of new schools in the hands of the Board of Education.

MR. McKENNA: The sooner such claims are sent in to the Board of Education, now that the Appropriation Act has been passed, the better, since no grant will be payable under the present Vote after 31st March next.

Merionethshire Education Dispute.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley); I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education what action is being taken by his Department in respect of salaries owed by the local education authority to teachers in certain non-provided schools in Merionethshire.

MR. McKENNA: I propose to pay the salaries of those teachers whose claims have been certified as correct.

LORD R. CECIL: Under the Default Act?

MR. McKENNA: Certainly. I have no other powers.

MR. LYTTELTON: And what is to be done in the case of those other teachers who have not received their salaries from private sources?

MR. McKENNA: As to the other teachers, I am sorry for them, but the managers refused to pay over their salaries, and the Default Act cannot be put into operation until the managers have paid. We can, therefore, do nothing for them.

LORD BALCARRES: We can assume that the Board of Education will also repay other salaries that have been withheld?

MR. McKENNA: Yes, if the circumstances prove to be the same. But I cannot give a general undertaking.

Garforth School.

MR. CARLILE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether in the event of the accommodation in the Garforth parochial school being insufficient, the course incumbent on the Board of Education was to require a reduction of the attendance to the number for which adequate accommodation is provided; under what section of any Education Act the Board claims the right to insist upon the reorganisation of the school; and whether the Board is advised that Section 7, Subsection (3), of the Act of 1902 gives the Board authority to intervene in case of a difference between the local education authority and the managers of a non-provided school.

MR. McKENNA: The answer to the first paragraph of the Question is in the affirmative, and it is the necessity for bringing about that reduction in the accommodation that rendered inevitable a decision as to which children, the older or the younger, were to be excluded from the school. In reply to the second paragraph, I may say that whenever in a matter of this kind the local authority and the managers agree as to the best selection of children to be excluded for this purpose, as is usually the case, the question in the second and third paragraphs of the hon. Member's Question does not arise; when this is not the case, as unfortunately occurred in connection with the Garforth parochial school, the Board of Education may have to determine, under Article 53 of the Code, as to the reasonableness of the grounds on which children may be refused admission. Whether, apart from this, a question might arise under Section 7 (3) of the Education Act, 1902, would depend upon various circumstances in each case, and no general answer could properly be given to this point as raised in the third paragraph of the hon. Member's Question.

"Limerick" Competitions.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether he has been furnished with information showing that the newspaper competitions, known as Limericks, are often so administered as to be little better than fraudulent lotteries; and does he now see his way to take any steps for the protection of the large number of unsuspecting persons who are in good faith supplying the funds for these competitions.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.): The materials furnished to me tend to show that in some cases at least the prizes for Limericks are chosen haphazard. If so, the so-called competition is undoubtedly both a lottery within the statute and a fraud upon the competitors to whom it is represented that the discrimination will be exercised upon a basis of comparative merit. There is further the consideration whether the large sums subscribed are in fact distributed. The subject is under the consideration of the Commissioners of the Police, who are charged with the administration of the law and have full authority to obtain proper legal advice, and I would suggest that all further communications upon the subject should be addressed to them.

Common Lands.

SIR J. JARDINE (Roxburghshire): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether his attention has been drawn to any cases of the public losing the enjoyment of tracts of common land by reason of the purchase by lords of manors of neighbouring enclosed lands, house sites, and toft rights, carrying rights of common; whether, in any such cases, the public enjoyment of the commons has been protected and the commons secured as open spaces by the local authority undertaking the management of the commons and making regulations for the same; whether the bringing of commons under the regulation of the local authority has been impeded by any powers of veto of the lord of the manor; and, if so, whether the Board of Agriculture has taken any steps to secure to the public the enjoyment of the commons as open spaces, especially in the neighbourhood of large towns.

THE TREASURER OF THE HOUSEHOLD (Sir EDWARD STRACHEY, Somersetshire, S.): We are not aware of any case in which the public have lost the enjoyment of common lands by reason of the purchase by the lord of the manor of neighbouring enclosed lands carrying rights of common. The number of cases in which the lord of the manor has exercised his right of veto on proposals made by local authorities for the regulation and management of commons are not numerous, but neither in these cases nor in any other has the Board of Agriculture any power to take direct action with the object of preserving commons as open spaces.

Scottish Procurators-Fiscal.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether procurators fiscal in Scotland are allowed to carry on private business; and, if so, will the Government put an end to it, so that these public officials may be in an independent position and able to act with equal justice to all.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. URE, Linlithgowshire): As my right hon. friend has on a former occasion informed my hon. friend the question whether a procurator-fiscal is entitled to carry on private practice or business depends on the terms of his commission. In every case where it is possible to do so, the settled policy has been to restrict the procurators-fiscal entirely to their official work.

Traction Engines on Scottish Roads.

SIR J. JARDINE: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, before the next session of Parliament, he will make inquiries as to the utility of requiring a third man with traction engines on roads in Scotland, seeing that for the last seven years this requirement has ceased in England.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): I have received various representations on the subject which I propose to consider with a view to legislation when a suitable opportunity occurs.

Melrose Asylum.

SIR J. JARDINE: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that in the last report of the medical superintendent of the district asylum at Melrose, for the border counties of Roxburgh, Berwick, and Selkirk, complaint is made that difficulties are found in procuring persons properly qualified to take care of the insane, and attention is directed to the number of changes that take place on the asylum staff because the warders and other employees have no prospect of receiving annuities when they retire incapacitated by their exacting duties; and, whether, seeing that similar complaints have often been made by the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland, he can see his way to undertaking legislation to confer the same sort of statutory power to award superannuation allowances as exists in the case of English county and borough asylums, Irish district asylums, and the Scottish royal asylums.

MR. SINCLAIR: My attention has been drawn to the matter referred to by my hon. friend and the legislation he suggests shall be considered, but I am unable to give any definite undertaking.

Education (Scotland) Bill.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware of the widespread disappointment in Scotland at the failure to pass the Education (Scotland) Bill; and whether he will reintroduce the Bill early next session and ensure its passage.

MR. SINCLAIR: The Government shares deeply in this disappointment; and while no pledge can be given at this moment, it is certainly my hope to reintroduce an Education Bill next session, which I trust may pass into law.

MR. GULLAND: Is it proposed to enact any of the provisions of the Bill by a minute of the Education Department?

MR. SINCLAIR: I have no present intention, but the matter is under consideration.

Irish School Buildings.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the difficulties between the Treasury and the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland in respect to school buildings have been removed; if so, how long is it since they have been so removed; have building grants been sanctioned; if so, to what amount, and how much has been advanced; in how many cases have managers been furnished with special plans that were to be prepared by the Board of Works; have any steps been taken to meet cases of urgency; if so, what were they; when were they taken; has there been delay in the cases of Edenderry (King's County) and Newbridge (Kildare County); if so, what is the cause of such delay; and, if matters connected with prospective school buildings are not in a satisfactory condition, would he consider the advisability of appointing a special architect for the purpose of disposing of such building arrears as may now exist.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): An agreement in this matter was arrived at on 30th April last, when it was arranged that the floor space allowance should be ten square feet per pupil and that the number of pupils to be provided for should be the mean between the average number on the rolls and the average attendance. One matter however, is still the subject of correspondence, namely, the provision of special rooms for practical instruction in science and cookery in certain classes of schools. The Commissioners have provisionally approved of the erection of new schoolhouses in 158 cases, 114 of which may be proceeded with if the managers submit special plans. So far, none of these 114 cases have reached the stage at which grants can be determined. The remaining forty-four cases must await the completion of the new standard official plans. In thirty-one cases sketch plans have been issued to managers with the object of enabling them to have special plans prepared by their own architects. In two cases only have such special plans been received and these are at present under consideration. Precedence is being given to cases of urgency, and it is with the view of expediting these cases that the managers have been allowed to submit special plans. In neither of the cases specially referred to has there been avoidable delay. In the case of Edenderry, the manager's plans are under consideration, and in the case of Newbridge the manager has been invited to submit special plans which have not yet been received. The Government have no ground for assuming that matters are progressing otherwise than satisfactorily or that there is any reason for appointing a special architect.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR: Can anything be done before the inclement season sets in?

MR. BIRRELL: I hope so.

Drainage of the Barrow.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Vice-Regal Commission on Arterial Drainage (Ireland) (1905–7) have confirmed the Report of the Allport Commission (1887) that the basin of the Upper Barrow suffered more from floods than any other part of Ireland; is he aware that they also find that smaller sums than those hitherto estimated might be expended on that river with advantage, provided that they were devoted to the purpose of specific works forming part of a general and comprehensive scheme of improvement (page 9); and is anything being done to prepare a comprehensive scheme of drainage of the Barrow river basin or for such specific works on a smaller scale as are recommended by the said Commission.

MR. BIRRELL: I have been asked to receive a deputation on the subject of the Barrow drainage in the course of the autumn, and have signified my willingness to discuss the matter with the influential committee which desires to put its views before the Government. In the meantime, I am afraid that I cannot with advantage add anything to my previous Answers on the subject.

Longford Grazing Land Disputes.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether on or about the 18th August last several organised attacks were made by large crowds upon grazing lands in the county of Longford and the cattle driven off, and the owners or persons in charge threatened; whether one of these attacks was conducted by the hon. Member for North Longford; and what proceedings, if any, have been or are to be taken for the vindication of the law and the protection of property in these particular cases.

MR. BIRRELL: It is the fact that cattle were driven off several grazing farms in county Longford on 18th August. The question of taking proceedings against the offenders is under consideration, and it would therefore be undesirable to enter into details of the offences at present. An extra force of police has been sent to the locality for the prevention of further offences of the kind.

Blake Estate, Connemara.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the price paid by the Congested Districts Board for the Blake property in Bunowen, in Connemara; whether he is aware that the holdings, about 100, on this estate are utterly uneconomic, consisting principally of rocks; whether he is aware that the reservation of the demesne lands by the landlord precludes the tenants from acquiring the only land that would improve the position of the tenants; and whether steps will at once be taken to prevent this reserved land being let to graziers and secured to the tenants.

MR. BIRRELL: The Congested Districts Board have agreed to purchase 3,484 acres of land from Mr. Blake for £8,868. The demesne, consisting of 200 acres, is to be resold for £2,000. The balance of 3,284 acres is therefore being acquired for £6,868. Of this area 3,017 acres consist of tenanted land occupied by fifty-seven tenants, whose rents average £5 each. The remaining 267 acres will be used for enlarging some of the holdings, but unless the Board are able to purchase other untenanted land they will not be able to enlarge the majority of the holdings. The Board have no control over the lands retained by the owner.

Dublin Revision Courts.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any, and, if so, what, steps have been taken since the 5th July last relative to the memorial addressed to the Lord-Lieutenant regarding the establishment of another revision court in the St. Stephen's Green Parliamentary division; whether, in view of the fact that over

1,000 claimants for votes in districts of that division outside the city have to travel from the county into the city revision court, distances varying from three to six miles, in order to prove such claims, steps will be taken to establish another revision court in that portion of the division which is in the county of Dublin for the convenience of the large number of qualified electors there; and whether such steps will be taken to establish another revision court in time for the coming annual revision of voters lists.

MR. BIRRELL: The memorial referred to has received careful consideration, and has been submitted to the law officers of the Crown who have advised that the Government have no power to make an Order establishing an additional revision court for the city of Dublin or any division of it. Legislation would apparently be necessary to enable the Government to comply with the prayer of the memorial.

The Explosion at Lord Ashtown's House.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary for Ireland a Question of which I have given private notice—namely, whether he has any facts to communicate to the House with reference to the inquiry which he told the House was going on into the explosion which took place at Lord Ashtown's shooting lodge.

MR. BIRRELL: No, Sir. The inquiry is going on, and the police are pursuing a great many chains of evidence, which we think may result in the satisfactory discovery of the perpetrator of this outrage; but it would not be convenient at this stage that I should make any statement to this House.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Inasmuch as Parliament will rise in a day or two, may I ask the right hon. Gentleman to state now whether, in view of the suspicious circumstances connected with this case, he will order a special inquiry, as was done in a similar case with very satisfactory results in another part of Ireland quite recently?

MR. BIRRELL: I have already intimated that the Government are fully alive to the powers they possess, both under the Explosive Substances Act and otherwise, to direct an inquiry of the kind the hon. Member indicates, and I think it is quite possible that such an inquiry may result; but I am not in a position to say the Government are determined upon it at the present moment.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Will the right hon. Gentleman be able to give us, before Parliament separates, some assurance upon this matter?

MR. BIRRELL: I was going to say I hoped not, but I do not think I shall have time to give a positive assurance upon that question before Parliament rises; but I shall be able to communicate the decision of the Government to the hon. Gentleman.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Pending the result of the inquiry, will the right hon. Gentleman see that Lord Ashtown does not leave the United Kingdom, as there is a very strong suspicion that he knows all about this matter?

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness): Is there any truth in the suggestion that Lord Ashtown blew himself up?

MR. BIRRELL: I was not aware he was blown up.

Ballinabrackey Postman.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that Mr. James Bracken, of Ballinabrackey, was medically disqualified in May last through blood poisoning caused by an accident upon duty; whether, in spite of this and of the fact that he had performed twenty-six years full-time service, he has not yet been notified of any superannuation or compensation for the injury; and whether a decision will be given without delay.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Much time has been necessarily taken up with the inquiries which have had to be made in this case. The Postmaster-General is advised that the accident on duty referred to is not the cause of Bracken's retirement, which is medically certified to be due to "natural debility from old age." Bracken has not held an established appointment, and is therefore not eligible for the award of a pension on retirement; but the question of his eligibility for a compassionate gratuity under the Superannuation Act, 1887, is under consideration; and a decision on this point will be given at as early a date as possible.

Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and the Australian Tariff.

MR. HAROLD COX: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to the statement by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce that the new Australian tariff will cause serious loss of employment in numerous industries in this country; and whether he will consider the advisability of relieving the taxpayers of this country at the earliest possible moment from the expense they now incur in connection with the naval squadron specially maintained for the defence of Australia.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I am not aware whether or not the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce have made any statement of so general a kind. They have stated in a letter addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that great losses will be suffered by exporters from this country in respect of contracts already under execution by the enforcement of the new Australian tariff. The Answer to the second part of the Question is in the negative, as an entirely different set of considerations are involved in the maintenance of the naval agreement with Australia and New Zealand.

MR. HAROLD COX: Will the right hon. Gentleman consult the hon. Member for East Worcestershire or the Hon. Member for Dulwich as to the form of retaliation they would adopt?

[No Answer was returned.]

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

WALTER EDWARD GUINNESS, Esq, commonly called the hon. Walter Edward Guinness, for the Borough of Bury St. Edmunds.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to certain of the Amendments made by this House to the Amendments made by the Lords to the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill; that they do not insist on certain of their Amendments to which this House has disagreed; that they do not insist on certain other of their Amendments but propose Amendments in lieu thereof, to which they desire the concurrence of this House, and insist on certain other of their Amendments to which this House has disagreed and for which insistence they assign their reasons. That they have agreed to certain of the Amendments made by this House to the Bill without Amendment; to one other of the Amendments with an Amendment, to which they desire the concurrence of this House; and have disagreed to certain other of the Amendments, for which disagreement they assign their reasons.

That they have agreed to; Sea Fisheries (Scotland) (Application of Penalties) Bill; Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill; Judicature (Ireland) Bill; Inverness Royal Academy Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment.

Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Bill, with an Amendment.

Public Health Bill; Small Holdings and Allotments Bill, with Amendments.

Amendment to; Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils) Bill [Lords].

Amendment to; Factory and Workshop Bill [Lords]; Companies Bill [Lords]; Vaccination (Scotland) Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they request that this House will be pleased to communicate to their Lordships copies of the Reports from the Select Committees appointed by this House in the present session on; 1. Home Work; 2. Publications; together with the Proceedings of the Committees and Minutes of Evidence.

That they have agreed to; Council of India Bill, without Amendment.

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, with Amendments.

EVICTED TENANTS (IRELAND) BILL.

Lords reasons for insisting on certain of their Amendments to the Bill to which this House has disagreed, and for disagreeing to certain other of the Commons Amendments, and Lords Amendment to one of the Commons Amendments, and Lords further Amendments to the Bill to be printed. [Bill 331.]

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS BILL.

Lords Amendments to be printed. [Bill 332.]

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Lords Amendments to be printed. [Bill 333.]

HOME WORK; PUBLICATIONS.

Printed copies of Reports from Select Committees to be communicated.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 336.]

EVICTED TENANTS (IRELAND) BILL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) said that in moving, as he now did, that the House should forthwith consider the Amendments of the Lords to the Commons Amendments of the Evicted Tenants Bill, he regretted that it was necessary for him to make a short statement in order that the House should know the view the Government took upon the present position. There was one point of supreme importance which immediately arose. The Lords adhered, with what he could only call grim pertinacity, to the Amendments inserted in that House at the instigation of Lord Robertson, the effect of which was that in no case whatsoever, be the circumstances what they might, could any new tenant be required to leave land under the compulsory powers of the Act if he should be a *bona fide* farmer cultivating his land. The result of that Amendment, if they agreed to it, would be that under no circumstances could compulsion be applied either at the discretion of the Estates Commissioners, or of the Judge, or of the Land Commission, to any new tenant who was able to show that he was at present within the description of a *bona fide* farmer. That really meant, he was bound to say, the triumph of Lord Clanricarde. It was never contemplated by the Government that compulsory powers would be used for the purpose of turning out any *bona fide* farmer who was unwilling to accept the generous terms offered by the Bill, which were a farm of equal value, or, if he so chose, full compensation for the disturbance to which he would be subjected. But the Amendment, if it were insisted on, would remove altogether from whatever tribunal was appointed the power to consider a case of that kind. He admitted at once, from his point of view, as Chief Secretary for Ireland, that he deeply deplored that the House of Lords should insist upon an Amendment which would deprive the Bill, if ever it became an Act, of what would be its greatest value, viz., its pacificatory message to the people of Ireland. He knew it had been said that to secure the immunity of the planters and new tenants was the object of noble Lords. From the bottom of his heart he hoped that object would be obtained by the measures they had adopted. But though his interest in the Bill had largely gone, he was still advised by persons in whom he had every confidence that what was left of the Bill, if anything was left, would be of very considerable value, and would assist and accelerate what was one of the main objects, indeed the only object of the measure, viz., the reinstatement of a considerable number of evicted tenants to the land; a reinstatement, not necessarily to the land from which they were evicted, but to land procured under the compulsory powers of the Bill. He, therefore, yielded to superior force, but in no way did he submit to force of argument, believing as he did that the Bill as originally introduced, and as the Government proposed to amend it, would secure justice. They agreed that no new tenant should be compelled to leave his farm unless in the opinion, not only of two of the Commissioners, but of the Judge of the Land Commission who was a Judge of the High Court, that course could be taken without injustice being done. That, however, was not sufficient for the House of Lords, and he understood that at that period of the session it was no use persisting in the Commons Amendment if they did not wish the Bill to be destroyed. As he, for one, did not wish that, and although, as he had said, its main interest was gone, he would advise the House not to disagree with the Lords in their Amendment. The Lords also had an Amendment in Clause 1 substituting for "full market value" the word they had introduced at the request of the Opposition, viz., "compensation," and by subsequent Amendments, which appeared in Lord Atkinson's name, "compensation" meant the kind of compensation awarded under the Lands Clauses Act, save except the 10 per cent. compensation under that Act for compulsory sale. Upon that they had generously not insisted as they were getting 12 per cent. bonus under the Act of 1903. In his opinion such a course would be disastrous. There was an appeal from the Estates Commissioners if they were wrong in valuing the land, and the Government were willing to insert words which would make it plain that the Commissioners were not to take land if by so doing damage would be done to the other land of the same owner. They thereby secured that the value of the land should be given, and, secondly, that the land should not be taken if the effect of taking it was seriously and injuriously to affect the value of the proprietor's remaining land. With that particular Amendment they felt they had come to the extreme limit, and they did not propose to agree to the insertion by the Lords of the word "compensation" in lieu of the word "value." There was another Amendment to which the Lords attached great importance in regard to which he would no longer contend with them. That was the introduction of the limit of 2,000 as the number of evicted tenants to be re-instated. He had argued that point until he was tired of it, and at that period of the session he felt physically unable to pursue it. At the very utmost there could be very few more than 2,000, and his objection to inserting the words "2,000" was that it would create an impression that they would have to live up to that number. But he had also pointed out that under this Bill—and this limit only applied to this Bill—they could not limit the number of evicted tenants who were restored voluntarily; the limit applied to those tenants who were to be restored on land compulsorily acquired under this Act, and there never would be anything like 2,000 restored on land compulsorily acquired under this Act; and therefore, he had all along objected to those words. But the House of Lords insisted upon them, and he did not think it was worth while to carry the controversy any further. And therefore, if the Lords wished to have this 2,000 inserted, he proposed they should offer no objection. The next point of importance was with regard to the appeal. There, again, he did not want to repeat himself, as he had spoken so often on the subject. His view, however, upon the question of appeal was that in the matter of valuing the land they could have no better tribunal than the Estates Commissioners, and that to appeal from them to a Judge or lawyer was unnecessary. Everyone who knew anything about the habit of Judges in matters of land value knew perfectly well that they did not ascertain the value of the land for themselves but appointed a person to value it. The Judge did not bring his own mind to bear on the question but relied upon the report of the expert. He relied upon an expert, and, if he was a sensible man, he would always do it. Therefore, he had always thought that it was unnecessary to have an appeal. But he recognised what was felt. The same people had a great jealousy of the Land Commission. It was thought there would be two ideas of the value of the land in Ireland—the idea that prevailed in the atmoshere of the Land Commission Court and the idea that prevailed in the mind of the man in the street, and it was desirable to have, if possible, some outside element. The Government agreed to an appeal to Mr. Justice Wylie, who had raised the price of land in Ireland rather than lowered it. As a matter of fact, his decisions, as compared with those of his immediate predecessors, had been of a character which had tended to raise the price of land and the idea of the value of land. But for some blessed reason all parties had combined in admiration of Mr. Justice Wylie. Both in the House of Lords and in that House every one said a fairer-minded man and a man more competent by past training to deal with the value of land did not exist. Therefore, he jumped at Mr. Justice Wylie, and his name had been inserted in the Bill. It was suggested that he ought to have outside assistance. The Government agreed, and it was now arranged that he should have two assessors to give him the valuable aid and support which was given, he supposed, by the introduction of outside assistance of that kind into a Court of Justice. Therefore, he proposed now to insert in the Bill the words "sitting with two assessors." The Government could not agree to Lord Atkinson's Amendment. The noble Lord had withdrawn his former Amendment, but it had reappeared in another Amendment, equally lengthy, which he did not think the Treasury could agree to, and which certainly the Government were not disposed to agree to. Therefore, it must be understood that the Court of Appeal which alone the Government were willing to concede was the appeal to Mr. Justice Wylie, sitting with two assessors. The House of Lords had restored the clause reserving sporting rights to the owner if he desired to reserve them. The Government would concede that. Having done that, they had shown their desire to secure the passage of this Bill even in what he, at all events, would never deny was a mutilated form. With regard to the tenure of the Commissioners, the House of Lords, after striking out Clause 13, had restored it, in perfectly good faith, with meaningless words, in order that they might have further time to consider the question. The Government proposed that Clause 13 should be restored; and if the House wished the words inserted in the other House to remain in it, they had no objection though they appeared to be surplusage, and had only been introduced for the purpose of keeping the matter open. He thought he had said all he need say upon the general statement which he had to offer upon this Bill. He could only repeat that, being responsible for the condition of Ireland, he was very sorry that this occasion could not be taken to indicate a generous desire to let bygones be bygones in this matter.

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That the Lords reasons for insisting on certain of their Amendments to which this House has disagreed, and for disagreeing to certain other of the Commons Amendments, and Lords Amendment to one of the Commons Amendments and Lords further Amendments to the Bill be considered forthwith."—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) thought it would be felt by the House to be a great convenience that the Chief Secretary should have stated the views of the Government in regard to the action of the House of Lords. He had listened with amazement to the remarks of the Chief Secretary. There had been many surprising statements made from the bench opposite during the passage of this Bill, but none more amazing than that with which the right hon. Gentleman had commenced his remarks; because he had told them, in the first place, that the meaning of the words inserted in the Bill by the House of Lords in regard to the sitting tenants was a triumph for Lord Clanricarde, and, in the second place, that this alteration destroyed what would have been a message of peace to Ireland. He had made it his business in the last few weeks to learn more about the existing conditions on Lord Clanricarde's estate, and he questioned whether the Chief Secretary, if he examined the circumstances for himself, would find that the effect of the Bill, so altered, upon Lord Clanricarde's estate would in any way justify the language he had used. Even if he was wrong in that belief, it would be little short of an absurdity if they were to forbid the insertion of words which were intended to make the Bill operate justly, because in one particular case they would have an effect contrary to what was desired by the Government and some other Members of the House. It was interesting to remember that during the passage of this Bill through its earlier stages they heard nothing about the definite declaration which had fallen from the Chief Secretary to-day, that it never was the intention of the Government to turn out the sitting tenants except under certain limitations. He appealed to those who took part in the debates upon this subject whether it was not entirely from his side of the House that the case of the sitting tenants had been presented, and whether they were not, in consequence, opposed to the attacks of hon. Gentlemen below the gangway, who declared that for the first time the Unionist Party in Ireland had become the champions of the tenants. He thought the Chief Secretary gave a very inaccurate description of what had taken place when he asked the House to accept it from him that the Government had never intended to disturb the sitting tenant. When the right hon. Gentleman said this change entirely altered the Bill and deprived him of any interest in it, he was still more amazed. The right hon. Gentleman told them it was not proposed to interfere with the sitting tenants unless it could be done without injustice. It depended upon what was meant by "without injustice." They had frequently been told that they must not regard this question of restoring the evicted tenants from the commercial or even from the agricultural point of view, but that they must remember that these men had an affection for the land upon which they once lived. Were they then to believe this of men who were evicted twenty-five years ago, and not believe it of the men who had been living on the land since that time? If the existence of this sentiment on the part of the evicted tenants justified this extraordinary and unprecedented action on the part of Parliament in order to help them, did not the existence of a similar sentiment on the part of the sitting tenants justify an Amendment to protect men who had done their duty in the face of every difficulty, and whose only fault in ninety-nine cases out of 100 was that they had stood against local disorder, had refused to be intimidated, and had carried on their work, not only to their own profit, but to the general good of the community of the district? [NATIONALIST cries of "Oh."] Hon. Gentlemen who dissented had not taken the trouble to make themselves acquainted with the Amendment. This Amendment would only protect men if they were *bona fide* farmers carrying on their business according to the principles of good husbandry. Did the Chief Secretary in his heart believe that to remove them by force, whatever the money compensation or grant of other land might be, was to send to Ireland as a whole anything like a message of peace? It was ten times more likely to create fresh difficulties. He was glad the Chief Secretary had made up his mind, after all, not to object to this Amendment. There was one further word he wished to say. The right hon. Gentleman had told them that it was impossible to deal with these cases without compulsion. The right hon. Gentleman could under existing powers and without compulsion deal with these cases in which a man, without injustice to him, could be removed. He did not think that on the benches around him they had any cause to be ashamed of the part they had taken in fighting for justice to be done to sitting tenants, and he for one rejoiced that the House of Lords had stood up for this Amendment, which would prevent what would have been an act of gross unfairness to men who had fearlessly done their duty. In regard to the next Amendment the right hon. Gentleman told them that the Government had yielded to force and not to argument. The right hon. Gentleman was enjoying a fresh experience. It was one which the Opposition had enjoyed for nearly two years. In the time which the right hon. Gentleman had before him—and he hoped it would not only be a long time but a prosperous and successful time for himself—he would be better able to appreciate the feelings of those who sat opposite to him than he had been during the period when he had been able to use force while the Opposition had been obliged to content themselves with presenting arguments. The next Amendment was for the substitution of the word "compensation" for the words "market value." He regretted that the Chief Secretary had not been able to accept the word "compensation," and to limit the further Amendment in regard to the way in which compensation was arrived at. There was some ambiguity about the words "market value." There was no precedent for taking land compulsorily for a purpose with which the owner was not immediately connected, without paying the full value for it. He regretted that the Chief Secretary insisted upon words which he thought he himself had admitted were not as fully satisfactory and expressive as he would like, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman could have got what he desired with the word "compensation" if he had limited that part of the Amendment to which he really objected, namely, the use of the machinery of the Lands Clauses Act in arriving at the compensation to be given. Then there was the 2,000 limit. He could not understand why the Amendment putting a limit to the number of evicted tenants to be restored was not accepted when it was first proposed. They had been assured times out of number that the Government did not intend to reinstate more than the number expressed in that limitation. The Commissioners he believed would be in a stronger position if they were able to say that the statute limited the number to be restored under it. He could not see that it would in any way increase the difficulties of their task, on the contrary, it would simplify it, and would give, what Parliament intended, the right to say that this Bill was intended for the limited purpose of restoring a particular number of selected tenants. As to sporting rights, the Chief Secretary consented to the change, therefore that did not call for any comment. With regard to the tenure of the Commissioners, he had already argued the case, and he need not argue it any further. He adhered to the views he had expressed in regard to the change of time and the manner in which the change was being made, and in reference to the fact that it was being attempted to make County Court Judges of men who in the performance of their duties were subject to the control of the Lord-Lieutenant. The other question was that of appeal. The Chief Secretary had said perfectly truly that in all quarters there was but one expression of opinion in regard to Mr. Justice Wylie. Unlike many of his hon. and right hon. friends, he had not the pleasure of the personal acquaintance of Mr. Justice Wylie, but he had heard a great deal about the work he had done, and about what he was considered to be, previous to his appointment to his office. He believed that Mr. Justice Wylie was a man who was very likely to deal fairly with all cases that came before him, to give the fairest consideration to the claims of both sides, and to deal with the difficult question of the valuation of land in a spirit of complete justice to all concerned, and with complete regard to all the various interests. But in order to do full justice all round the appeal ought to be to an independent tribunal. If the appeal was to be effective and complete it should be to an absolutely fresh tribunal, and not to a member of the very body whose action was to come under review. Those were the reasons which had led them to fight for some such Court of Appeal as was to be found in the Amendment which the Lords had insisted upon. He did not believe that the difficulties which this Bill sought to remove really lay at the root of Irish discontent and trouble, and it could not be justly described as a message of peace to Ireland. He admitted that there were difficulties in connection with the reinstatement of the evicted tenants which should be removed. He could not, however, believe that when they were all so near a common agreement, that any responsible body of men who had the interests of sound and fair legislation at heart would at the eleventh hour offer any violent opposition to a scheme of appeal which gave a second hearing to those who were aggrieved and provided machinery of a character against which not one word could be said. This machinery would enable anybody who thought an injustice had been done to them to have their case reheard.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said he felt it his duty to rise at once and give expression to the extreme concern with which he had heard the statement made by the Chief Secretary. It was evident from that statement that whether the Bill was passed into law or whether it was not the Government would fail to carry out that promise upon which the Irish people had been relying for so long, and upon the realisation of which, in his judgment, the hopes and the welfare of Ireland in the immediate future depended He desired at once to correct a misapprehension which might perhaps follow from one of the phrases used by the Chief Secretary, where he said that he had made these concessions in deference to advice tendered to him. He wished to say that he tendered no such advice to him nor had any of his colleagues. Whatever quarter the advice came it had not come from the Nationalist representatives of Ireland. His advice was exactly of an opposite character and he protested as strongly as it was possible for him to do against the acceptance of those Amendments of the Lords to which he would allude in a moment. Of course every man understood the difficulties of the position of the Government. Every fair man would give the Chief Secretary full credit for having intended to fulfil his promise to Ireland. His Bill as introduced was in fulfilment of that promise. But this Bill if passed—and as to that he did not know—would not be a fulfilment of that promise held out to Ireland, and certainly would not come as a message of peace, or have any chance of settling the evicted tenants question. He had not risen, however, for the purpose of attacking the Government, because he realised their difficulties and the desire of the Chief Secretary to go as far as he could. He had risen for the purpose of endeavouring to point some moral to this transaction; first for the benefit of the English Members, and, secondly, for the benefit of Ireland. He would, in a few sentences, state what the situation really was with reference to this Bill, and what had been the action of the landlord party in this House and in the House of Lords. The Land Act of 1903 was carried because a specific promise was given to the representatives of the tenants—at the Land Conference first of all, and subsequently in the House—as an essential condition of the truce of peace between the two contending parties that the evicted tenants would be speedily restored to their holdings. Without that promise the Land Conference would not have been possible, and the Land Act of 1903 would never have been passed. Four years had passed since the Act was carried, and yet the promise had not been fulfilled. He knew hon. Members were fond of reminding the House that 1,000 evicted tenants had been restored owing to the voluntary operation of the Act of 1903. That was true, but the question had not been settled. The worst cases, like that of the Clanricarde estate, had not been settled, and so long as they remained unsettled the open sore could not be closed, and the land war in Ireland was not only not settled, but there appeared no human possibility of its being settled. How could it? Lord Clanricarde was a man who would not sell. He would not restore the tenants. Application after application had been made to him, sometimes direct to him and sometimes to his agent; and he had not replied except with the one statement that he would not extend clemency to those evicted tenants. Now the Government had introduced a Bill which, if carried into law, as they conceived, would have enabled cases of this kind to be settled, and in the course of a few months, without any injustice being done to anybody—not only was the landlord to be paid the full value but the new tenants and planters were to get full compensation in money for any injury that might be done to them—this vexed question would be settled. The landlord party in this House and in the House of Lords had ripped that up. They had done it deliberately. His opinion was that the action of the House of Lords and the landlord party in this House had been animated by the motive of wishing to see the Chief Secretary embroiled in the coming winter in trouble and turmoil in Ireland. That was his opinion, and he had no hesitation in expressing it. All who were capable of thinking on this subject and who had had experience of the landlords were aware that nothing could be more fatal to the hopes of Ireland in the coming months than the wrecking of this Bill. They had done it deliberately. Let him explain the method that they had adopted. First of all, he would take the question of price. The Bill as originally introduced provided that the landlord whose land was to be taken was to get a fair price for his land. One would have thought that that would have satisfied everybody, but in deference to the Opposition in this House the Government made a concession, and instead of a fair price they put in the words "the fair market value," which those acquainted with these matters knew was not exactly the same thing. At the time those words were accepted he regretted it. Then the Bill went to the other House where the words "a fair market value" were struck out and the word "compensation" was inserted instead. The Lords also introduced an Amendment bringing the Lands Clauses Act into the consideration of the fine. The cool request of these landlords was that they should get first of all the full market value of the land, secondly that they should have the 12 per cent. bonus, and in addition to that their original demand was 10 per cent. bonus for compulsion, severance and so forth—an attempt which, in his opinion, was absolute robbery on the part of these people. Let the House mark the malice of it. Of course a provision of that kind would stop the working of the Bill altogether, because when the landlord was bought out of this land the evicted tenant would be put in as a purchaser, and his instalments by way of repayment of interest and principal on the purchase money would, under those circumstances, be so high that it would be utterly impossible for him to pay them. In that way the question of price in the Bill would be so worked as to make the measure absolutely inoperative. What was the next thing they did? They said, "We must have a tribunal to our liking to fix the price."

They were not content with the Estates Commissioners, who were all, as far as he knew, appointed by a Unionist Government, and as to two of them he had heard it stated, without contradiction, they were Unionists in politics. Not content with a tribunal of that kind, they now came forward and asked that there should be an appeal, an elaborate system of appeal, not on value only, but on everything; not only on price but on policy. That was the first demand. They were to have an appeal on the the question whether the compulsory powers were ever to be put into operation in any case at all. The appeal they still demanded was an appeal to a rota of Judges of the King's Bench Division; and why? He was the last man in the world to make anything in the nature of an attack upon the Judges, but the majority of these men were appointed for political services and had been by tradition connected with the landlord party. Naturally the landlords demanded an appeal to them. The Government offered them an appeal to the Judicial Commissioner. He did not know whether that official was a Home Ruler or not, but he certainly was not a Catholic, and he could not be called a tenant's man. He had never heard a word of suspicion directed against the Judicial Commissioner's impartiality, and yet the landlords were afraid to trust him, because his traditions had not been associated with the landlord party in Ireland. The landlords asked for this increased price, for compensation, and also for their own tribunal to carry it into effect. He would just like to show the recklessness, the harshness, and the unscrupulousness of these men. Clause 13 provided that the two Estates Commissioners who held their office at pleasure should have security of tenure given to them, so that they would be in as good a position as the other Commissioner. They had all heard the protest repeated again and again in this House against the iniquity of this distinction. What had happened? Since the measure was last discussed in this House some ingenious lawyer had discovered that the Act of 1903 repealed the Act of 1901 under which this Commissioner had security of tenure—this referred to Mr. Wrench who had been avowed as the friend of the landlords by more than one Unionist Member. The very moment they found that Mr. Wrench's tenure was not secure they turned round in the Lords and said, "This is a most admirable provision; we will give security to the whole three." He mentioned that fact just to show the insincerity of the whole transaction. They made a bitter fight in this House on that very point, but when they found it was necessary to concede it in the interests of Mr. Wrench they at once gave it up. The subject of the planters was the most serious of all these matters. So long as the planters in places like the Clanricarde estate were left in possession there could be no such thing as peace or an end to the land war in Ireland. In that case it would be impossible to provide for the tenants elsewhere, because there was no untenanted land available, and the only way in which the Clanricarde estate could be dealt with was by giving the planters compensation and restoring the evicted tenants to their holdings. He did not believe, from the information he had received, that in this case the planters themselves would raise any very great objection. Hon. Members above the gangway would have them believe that they had taken this action in the interest of the planters. What was certain was that the inevitable and immediate effect of their action would be that the whole force of public opinion would be directed against those planters. He ventured to say that if the planters on the Clanricarde estate were consulted, they would think that those were not their friends but their enemies who were standing in the way of a peaceful and honourable settlement of this question. He for his part desired to draw this moral—unfortunately it was a moral which he and his friends had had to draw over and over again in his experience during the last quarter of a century in this House—if Ireland was peaceful and trustful, the Unionist Party was always obdurate. Did this House think that the House of Lords representing the landlord party would dare to deal with this Bill in the way it had done if there was a strong and menacing agitation afoot in Ireland at the present time? They would do nothing of the kind. They would deal with this Bill as they had dealt with other Bills under these circumstances. The moral for Ireland was that if she wanted to get next session land legislation, if she desired to see the evicted tenants reinstated, if she desired to see the black spot of the Clanricarde estate and other similar spots wiped out in Ireland, if she desired to see the Land Act of 1903 amended, as all moderate and reasonable men admitted it should be amended in the near future—if she desired all these things, she would have to close up her ranks and make her movement sufficiently strong and menacing to overcome both the hon. Members above the gangway and the House of Lords. He asked the House not to imagine that it was a pleasure to him to say these things. He was deeply disappointed. He naturally thought that they would have had a settlement of the question through this Bill. He had been so much through the political trouble, and he had seen so much of the suffering entailed upon the agricultural class during the last twenty-five years, that he shrank from the prospect of fresh trouble. But one thing was certain. Those suffering tenants who for twenty years had been waiting on the roadside for a chance of going back into their old homes, would not submit with patience to their permanent exclusion in the settlement of the land question, and in any action they took they undoubtedly would have the sympathy and support of the mass of their fellow countrymen behind them. It might be taken for granted that this Bill now, whether it passed or not, could not settle the question. He said he would not attack the Government, and he had not done so. He was certain that the Government were honestly desirous of settling the question. They had been thwarted by that power which stood between British Radicals and reform just as it stood between the Nationalists and reform in Ireland. British Members must not be surprised if Nationalists showed impatience when again they were thrown back from the prospect of redress and reform. He supposed that the right hon. Gentleman would now proceed to deal separately with the Amendments. He would himself take no further part in the discussion. He would not discuss with the right hon. Gentleman or with hon. Members above the gangway the proposals of the remaining Amendments. It was sufficient for him to know that the Bill if it passed—though he did not say it was worthless, for there was enshrined in the Bill the great principle of compulsory acquisition of untenanted land—would not fulfil the object for which it was introduced. It would not reinstate the evicted tenants, and therefore, from that point of view, it would be a failure. He deeply regretted it, and he trusted that the lesson would not be lost on fair-minded men in this country, and he was certain that the lesson would not be lost on the Irish people.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) regretted that the hon. Gentleman did not permit the closing scene of this drama to draw to a termination without making to a wearied and somewhat somnolent House of Commons a speech which, in his opinion, was likely to do great harm to the cause the hon. Gentleman had at heart. For what was his main charge against the House of Lords and what he called the landlord party? His main charge was that they were anxious to have a disturbed Ireland in the winter in order to give a great deal of trouble to the right hon. Gentleman opposite on whose shoulders now rested the always serious burden of Irish government. A few things suggested themselves to his mind in connection with this charge. He took it that the owners of land in Ireland had most to suffer from agrarian disturbance. It was against them that the powerful engines of calumny and intimidation were to be directed; and that in order to make the task of the Chief Secretary for the time being more difficult than it otherwise would be they should give anything in the nature of an excuse to those who controlled in Ireland the forces of disorder was a paradox so wild and absurd that he was amazed the hon. Member should have made it. He had listened with attention to the hon. Gentleman's speech, and — though he might misinterpret its meaning—the only interpretation that he could put on his words was a desire to see a period of disorder in Ireland in order that legislation of the kind he desired might be got through both Houses without difficulty. That was a direct incitement to disorder in Ireland, a plain indication to the people of Ireland of a motive to break the law and to indulge in wild and reckless agitation. Yet the same hon. member who put forward these inducements to his countrymen to break the law in Ireland accused the Irish landlords in the same speech of harbouring a policy so suicidal as that of producing a state of disorder to their own injury and to the embarrassment of the

Chief Secretary. That these two propositions should appear in the same speech was surely the height of rhetorical inconsistency. What was the hon. Member's charge? He did not dwell upon his statements as to the price of the land. The Chief Secretary stated that the Peers desired to see not merely the 10 per cent. which had very commonly been given under the Lands Clauses Act to those from whom land was taken compulsorily, but that they desired 12 per cent. in addition from the bonus. He did not believe that any Court would give both 12 and 10 per cent., and it was folly to add the two sums together and say that the Irish landlords wanted 22 per cent. What they desired was to get a fair price for their land. Personally he had no objection to the scheme which the House owed to the ingenuity of the hon. Member in charge of the English Land Bill; but everyone would admit that if they took a man's land against his will they must regard him as a man who was suffering from a transaction in which he did not desire to be a party. That point ought always to be considered. It was folly to suppose, therefore, that any section of opinion in the House of Lords desired to see 10 and 12 per cent. added to the value of the land. Besides, that provision was now out of the Bill, and when the hon. Member dragged it into his speech he obviously did so for no other purpose except to create prejudice and excite animosity.

MR. J. REDMOND said he had stated that the provision had been taken out of the Bill, but he was dealing with the original demands pressed in the House of Lords. The provision was only given up two days ago.

MR. BIRRELL: They were both in the original Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that, at any rate, the transaction was over, and the provision was given up in the amended Bill. Next the hon. Member gave a position of prominence to the Clanricarde estate. The hon. Member spoke as if it were impossible in any circumstances to settle the case of the evicted tenants and the Plan of Campaign estates except by the Bill as it left the House. But almost all the Plan of Campaign estates had been settled without this Bill. The tenants had been there for 20 years; they were *bona fide* cultivators, and they were as likely to be at least as much attached to their holdings as the men who left them twenty years ago. When the hon. Member told the House, therefore, that the result of the Amendment would be to prevent these tenants from being turned out unless through the action of what he euphemistically called "the force of public opinion," he thought that he took upon himself a very great responsibility. Everyone knew how that phrase would be interpreted in Ireland, and the Chief Secretary knew how it would be interpreted there. In the language of Irish controversial politics it was capable only of one interpretation; and that interpretation was that life should be made so intolerable to these tenants that, rather than remain in their holdings which they had occupied for twenty years, upon which they had reared their children and become prosperous under the agrarian conditions that prevailed, they would be ready to accept any excuse or compensation in order to get away. It was a very serious thing that words of that kind should be uttered in the House by a person in the position of the Leader of the Irish Party. They would be reported in the newspapers—and they were intended to be reported in Ireland—and the advice coming from one in the position of the hon. Member in Ireland, as well as in the House of Commons, a Member of such prominence and importance, it was not likely to fall on deaf ears, nor was the seed he had endeavoured to sow likely to fall on stony ground. What was the view of settling the Irish difficulty in which the hon. Member and the Chief Secretary were agreed? They seemed to think that peace was to be attained in Ireland by turning out the men who were *bona fide* cultivators of their land, who were associated and had been long associated with the land and the district, and by putting others in their places. He did not know that any one had found that panacea for Irish ills which was going to give them peace in that island; but that peace ought to or could be bought at that price seemed to him to be absolutely incredible. Granted, what had never been proved, that these evicted tenants were evicted unjustly, granted that there was in their case suffering and wrong which were to be compensated, how were they to compensate that suffering and to diminish that wrong by inflicting new suffering and new wrong? If they were to reach that great and desirable consummation of peace only by following these devious, crooked, and unjustifiable paths, then he did not believe that peace was attainable at all. Let the House at all events in rectifying one evil not create another greater and less justifiable; so only could they hope that some permanent alleviation could be brought to the ills of that country. There was another point that occurred to him in connection with what had fallen from the hon. Gentleman. The hon. Member admitted at the end of his speech that this Bill was not altogether without some kernel of good, and he found it in the principle of the compulsory appropriation of untenanted land for the purpose of enlarging holdings. It was worth while reminding the House that this was in direct and explicit contradiction of the principle formulated over and over again from the bench opposite with reference to the justification in respect of compulsory purchase. It would be remembered that the Opposition had urged many times that the proper way to deal with small holdings in England was to give the option of purchase to the small holder. The Government replied that it was contrary to the fundamental principles of the party to which they belonged to take land compulsorily from one person in order to hand it over to another. That was the principle laid down by the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill. It was the principle which the hon. Baronet the Member for South Somersetshire laid down on the Third Reading, and it was their justification for the rejection of purchase in the English Bill. But they had now the assertion of the hon. Member that the one thing he saw valuable in the Bill was this very principle of taking land compulsorily from A in order to give it compulsorily to B.

MR. BIRRELL said the right hon. Gentleman could not go back upon the principle of the Act of 1903.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the right hon. Gentleman did not understand what he said. He was saying nothing about the Act of 1903.

MR. BIRRELL said that compulsion was involved in the Act of 1903. Everybody agreed that compulsion under the Act of 1903 was involved, if the land could not be transferred from the landlords to the tenants under the voluntary provisions. Parliament would not go back on that.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that he was not aware that there was any compulsion in that Act.

MR. BIRRELL: If only half the land were sold voluntarily, do you think you could stop there?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that if the Act of 1903 involved compulsion, then clearly the hon. and learned Member for Waterford was wrong in saying that this Bill for the first time introduced the principle of compulsion. On the main principles of this measure there was no conflict between the two Houses, and he did not believe that by compulsorily turning out one set of *bona fide* tenants to put in another set the Government were going to conduce to the peace of Ireland. But such as it was, the Bill seemed to have every prospect of passing in a form which would do all that such a Bill could do. He never took the view of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford that this was a final message of peace that would settle the long standing difficulties of the agrarian question.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I did not say that. What I said was that it would settle the evicted tenants question.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the hon. and learned Gentleman had contended that the evicted tenants question alone stood in the way of the final settlement of the land question. The real fact was that the Bill now retained any virtue that it ever had; and while he did not believe that it would have had all the excellent effects imagined by the hon. and learned Gentleman, he did not believe that whatever merits it had had been diminished by the modifications introduced by the Lords. He desired, therefore, that it should be added to the Statute Book, and there should be no difficulty in passing it in the shape suggested by the Chief Secretary.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said that when the question was put from the Chair it was not the intention of the Irish Party to divide against it. They did not intend to accept any responsibility for the Bill in the form in which it had come down to the House of Commons, but to wash their hands of it. There were many observations in the speech of the Leader of the Opposition which invited reply, but he would not go through the speech as a whole. He, however, had remarked that the right hon. Gentleman was not quite happy in the political situation produced by the Amendments made in the Bill in another place. He might be tempted to dwell on the comparison which the right hon. Gentleman had made between the compulsory taking of land in England and Ireland. The compulsory taking of land in England would be a very simple matter if only it was taken under the same conditions as were proposed in Ireland—10 per cent. under the Lands Clauses Consolidated Act, and 12 per cent. on the purchase money by way of bonus. He was sure that the landlords of England and Scotland would be willing to sell their land on such favourable conditions. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to dwell on the idea that the Irish Party attributed a certain amount of selfishness on the part of the House of Lords in dealing with this question. But would the right hon. Gentleman tell the House that the landlords of Ireland should have in selling their land to the tenants 22 per cent. more than its value? That was admitted by the noble and learned Lord who proposed the Amendment in another place, and that a Court of Law would have had to give the landlords that 10 per cent. if the Amendment had remained in the Bill. And that was the House which boasted of its freedom from the ordinary selfishness of mankind! It was noteworthy that the two important Amendments most damaging and sinister in their effect on the tenants should have been proposed in the House of Lords by two noble Lords who he had always supposed had been sent to the Upper House not for the purpose of indulging in political controversy but to exercise judicial functions. He would come to the root of the situation. What did it mean? The Leader of the Opposition, backing up the House of Lords, had taken up the case of Lord Clanricarde. He was not astonished at the House of Lords' doing so, but he was astonished at the right hon Gentleman's doing so. And he was also astonished at the action of the right hon. Member for South Dublin. When the Chief Secretary stated at the beginning of the session that it was his intention to bring in legislation if necessary to deal with the case of Lord Clanricarde, the right hon. Member for South Dublin actually gave him his blessing. But he was not ashamed now to eat his own words and back up the House of Lords in supporting the action of Lord Clanricarde.

MR. WALTER LONG: I did nothing of the kind.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR asked if the right hon. Gentleman meant to say that he did not intimate at the time that he would raise no objection to dealing with Lord Clanricarde? The right hon. Gentleman could not deny what was on record and within the recollection of hon. Members. And the Chief Secretary said he was agreeably surprised at the favourable attitude the right hon. Gentleman took up with regard to Lord Clanricarde. He was surprised also at the language used by the Leader of the Opposition, for he remembered that in the stormy days in Ireland the right hon. Gentleman used the words, "On whichever side the responsibility rests of having made a hell upon earth on the Clanricarde Estates." Everybody who heard the right hon. Gentleman knew that he intended by these words as much condemnation of the unreasonableness and selfishness of Lord Clanricarde as of the share which the national organisation bore in those transactions. The Leader of the Opposition now set up as a defender of Lord Clanricarde.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I said nothing for or against Lord Clanricarde.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said he was quite sure that the right hon. Gentleman did not say so. He was too acute and skilful a Parliamentarian to say so, but what he wanted the House to understand was that the Clanricarde estate was the kernel of the situation. What was the real meaning of the changes made in the Bill by the House of Lords? It would be a waste of time to denounce Lord Clanricarde. They all knew his character as a landlord. There were 120 evicted tenants on Lord Clanricarde's estate whose holdings were in the hands of planters. There was no spot in Ireland which had been the scene of so much disturbance as the Clanricarde estate. There was scarcely an acre upon it that was not wet with human blood; and whole families were kept from starvation by the help of people as poor as themselves. The right hon. Gentleman actually said that the love of these people for the cottages in which they were born and in which their forefathers were born, from which they were evicted, frequently at the cost of blood and terrible resistance, was to be put upon the same level with that of the men who came from the North of Ireland with their lives in their hands to take possession of the homes of these people! The suggestion was grotesque. Here were these 120 tenants with regard to whom they were told that if they did not get back their old holdings they could not get other holdings in the neighbourhood because there were no other holdings to be obtained. The Clanricarde estate was the greatest poison spot in the country, and the House of Lords in their anxiety for the peace of Ireland had thrown them this message of war—that these people who had waited, twenty-five years and more, to be reinstated were now to be deprived of their homes altogether. The right hon. Gentleman did not seem to be quite happy in this matter, but he had had the parliamentary courage to attempt to throw on the hon. and learned Member for Waterford the responsibility for all the disorder that might arise in consequence of the action of the House of Lords. But the House of Lords could not get rid of their responsibility in this way.

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords reasons for insisting on certain of their Amendments to which this House has disagreed, and for disagreeing to certain other of the Commons Amendments, and Lords Amendment to one of the Commons Amendments, and Lords further Amendments to the Bill, considered.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out 'of the land.'"

Lords Amendment—

"In page 1, line 9, to leave out 'the fair market value thereof' and insert 'the compensation for the loss which would be sustained by the owner being deprived thereof,'"

Disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In line 10, after 'may' insert 'subject to the provisions as to the appeal contained in this Act,"

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment in page 2, line 4.

Agreed to.

On Lords Amendment in page 2, line 15, and also in lines 16 to 21:—

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange) said some slight confusion had got into the Bill owing to Amendments and cross Amendments, and if this Lords Amendment was accepted as it stood that confusion would remain. He proposed that the House instead of accepting it should insist on the Commons Amendment, page 2, line 9, substituting May for January as a concession to the other House, and should agree to the following proviso instead of the old subsection—

"Provided that no tenanted land shall be acquired compulsorily which is in the possession or occupation of a *bona fide* tenant using or cultivating the same as an ordinary farm in accordance with the proper methods of husbandry."

MR. WALTER LONG said the Amendment the Government now proposed was one which did not in any way alter the sense of Subsection 3, of Clause 1, and he understood that no Amendment could be made to Lords Amendments unless they did alter the sense.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) asked whether it was competent for the right hon. and learned Gentleman to move an Amendment not on the Paper.

*MR. SPEAKER said it was competent for the right hon. and learned Member to move to disagree with the Lords Amendment and to move to amend the Bill in such a way as to meet the object of the Lords Amendment.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Question "That this House doth insist on its Amendment in page 2, line 19, to substitute 'May' for 'January,'" put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of Subsection 3 to insert the words 'provided that no tenanted land shall be acquired compulsorily which is in the possession or occupation of a *bona fide* tenant using or cultivating the same as an ordinary farm in accordance with the proper methods of husbandry."—(*Mr. Cherry.*)

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment in page 2, lines 16 to 21—Disagreed to.

Lords Amendments in page 3, line 3, line 11, and lines 17 and 18—

Disagreed to.

The Lords agree to the Amendment made by the Commons in page 3, line 23, with the following Amendment:

"To leave out the words 'the purchase money shall within the prescribed time' and insert the words 'amount of the compensation shall within six months after the expiration of of the time limited for the presentation of petitions.'"

MR. CHERRY: We agree to that, subject to the substitution of the words "purchase money" for the words "amount of compensation."

MR. LONG said he did not regard the substitution of the words proposed by the Government as a satisfactory way of carrying out the object of the Chief Secretary. But he would not put the House to the trouble of a division.

Lords Amendment amended, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment in lieu of their Amendment in page 3, line 30—

"To leave out from 'thereon' to the end of the Subsection (7) and insert new subsections (8) and (9)."

MR. BIRRELL moved to disagree with the Lords' Amendment. The only thing he proposed to do was to amend the Commons' Amendment, on page 3, line 4, by omitting certain words and inserting other words.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

MR. BIRRELL moved to omit from the line of the Commons Amendment the words "hear in the prescribed manner," and to insert the words, "with the assistance of two specially qualified lay assessors, nominated by him for the purpose, hear."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. BIRRELL moved, in the 10th line of the Commons Amendment, to insert after "1881," "other then the power to direct a valuer to report."

Amendment agreed to.

Commons Amendments in page 3, line 34, and page 4, line 4, to which the Lords has disagreed—

Insisted on.

Lords Amendment in page 5, line 5—

Disagreed to.

Commons Amendments in page 5, line 6, and lines 7 and 8, to which the Lords disagreed—

Insisted on.

Lords Amendments in page 5, line 26, and line 32—

Disagreed to.

Lords Amendment to insert a new clause after Clause 6—

Agreed to.

On the Lords Amendment to Clause 13, inserting after "shall" in page 6, line 39 "from and after the passing of this Act":—

MR. BIRRELL said these words had only been put in by the House of Lords with a desire to keep the question open. The words were very undesirable, and, therefore, he moved to disagree.

Lords' Amendment disagreed to.

MR. CHERRY moved, in page 5, clause 6, lines 34 to 36, to leave out the words "The owners of property so as to diminish the value thereof as little as possible," and to insert "Any other property of the owner so as not to diminish the value thereof."

Amendment agreed to.

Committee appointed to draw up reasons to be assigned to the Lords for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments, and for insisting upon certain of the Commons Amendments to which the Lords disagree.

Committee nominated of,—Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr. Birrell, and Mr. Solicitor-General.

Three to be the quorum.

To withdraw immediately. — (*Mr. Birrell.*)

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS BILL.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire Rossendale), in moving that the Lords Amendments to the Small Holdings and Allotments Bill be considered forthwith, said that there were a larger number of Amendments for consideration than they might have reasonably expected to receive from their Lordships. They fell, roughly, into three classes: First of all, those which were drafting or explanatory, or which had been accepted by the Government in the other place, and in respect of all of which, of course, he should move that the House do agree. The second class were either nonsensical or mischievous, sometimes both, and sometimes it was difficult to tell which, and that class, of course, they would have to scrutinise carefully. They might accept those which were mischievous in intention but nonsensical in effect, so long as they were quite sure that they were nonsensical. But they would have to eliminate those with were mischievous in effect as well as intention. Then there was a third, and he was happy to say a smaller class, the Amendments which appeared to be pure wrecking Amendments in intention, and destructive in effect. These Amendments he would ask the House to reject wholly. The Government had introduced, adhered to, and carried through a Bill which was very moderate in method, though he believed very effective in machinery. In nicely balanced machinery like this, any rough or inconsiderate handling might throw all the gear out of order. He had tried, during the progress of the Bill through Committee, and on the Report Stage in the House, and even in another place, to meet all reasonable objections, and even to meet what seemed to him to be somewhat unreasonable fears, from whatever quarter they came; but it was impossible, at this stage, to shift the whole design of the Bill from the lines on which it had been laid down. They had been bidden by what might be called the landlord party in the other House to regard them as their allies in this matter. He saw on the Amendments before him no trace of an alliance. If these Amendments were the operation of an enemy he would call them fair fighting, but if they were the manœuvres of allies, he would be inclined to say that they seemed to him like treachery. In any event, the Government, having produced a measure which they believed to be just to all, and which in their view was the minimum requisite to meet the necessities of the case, could not associate themselves with or be responsible for a Bill which fell short of what they regarded as those necessities. Nor did they intend to associate themselves with a Bill which would be both unworthy and unworkable. He, personally, would sooner lose the Bill than offer what he would know to be a sham to those for whom it was intended. Therefore, the House would understand that the Amendments with which he would ask them to disagree were those which in his opinion were fatal to the Bill. He should be prepared to deal with each of the Amendments in detail, and he hoped they might escape discussion on those with which he was prepared to agree. Ten of the Lords Amendments he would ask the House to amend; eighteen he would ask the House to agree with; and thirty-three he proposed to ask the House to disagree with.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Lords Amendments to the Small Holdings and Allotments Bill be considered forthwith."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

MR. CHAPLIN (Surrey, Wimbledon) said he had heard with much regret some of the observations which had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman. Hitherto they had endeavoured, on that side of the House at all events, to do their utmost to secure that the Bills hould be conducted without recrimination and without unnecessary differences with the other side, and, at all events, should in the spirit and with the intention of conciliation, and with the desire of arriving at a satisfactory result. He was quite unable to perceive in reference to what had occurred in another place that there was the slightest justification of any sort or kind for many of the epithets which the right hon. Gentleman had hurled at the heads of the other House. The right hon. Gentleman, if he had desired to secure that which he declared was the intention of many of the Amendments, namely, to wreck it and to bring about its failure, could not have adopted a better course to ensure that effect. Never did he recollect in the House of Commons a speech more unfortunate for the occasion, or more calculated to throw difficulties in the way of the success of the measure, which, he frankly admitted, the right hon. gentleman had conducted with great skill and in a business spirit—a spirit which he might have shown towards another place; but, he repeated, if the right hon. Gentleman had desired to bring about the result he pretended to apprehend, he could not have adopted a better course. He did not desire to dwell on this point, because he thought the sooner they proceeded to the discussion of the Amendments the better it would be for all parties concerned. The right hon. Gentleman had told them that there were some drafting Amendments, and Amendments which had been agreed upon in the other House, some of which were nonsensical or mischievous, and some of which were purely destructive and intended to wreck this measure altogether. He thought he knew something of the desires which animated those in another place, and anything more unfair than the inference of the right hon. Gentleman, or anything further from their intention, he could not possibly imagine. It was conceivable that they might be mistaken, but a great many noble Lords knew as much about this subject as the right hon. Gentleman himself. He was quite certain that not a single Amendment had been moved except with the clear intention of making the Bill a workable and effective measure. There was not a shadow of justification for the very harsh and ill-timed sentiments expressed by the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. MASTERMAN (West Ham, N.) said that as reformers he and his friends were grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for the announcement he had just made. Although they had been in opposition to him during most of the time in Committee, and although they were unable to get what they thought were improvements in the Bill, still, at the end of the Committee stage, there was something very like common agreement on both sides that the Bill might go forward in the form in which it was finally presented to the House. That common agreement had been absolutely broken up by the House of Lords by a series of Amendments, which, if they were not meant to be wrecking Amendments, he could not conceive the motive for moving. They all acknowledged that hon. Gentlemen opposite, in Committee, had exhibited every intention of trying to make the Bill a satisfactory one, and they had moved as many Amendments evidently designed in the interest of the small holder and the public good as for the interest of any particular class. The Lords Amendments, however, were only of one kind, and by no stretching of interpretation could any of them be said to be designed in the interests of the small holder. Some of those Amendments were not even suggested by the Opposition in Committee, and others were withdrawn after discussion as being unsuitable for the Bill. Not one of these Amendments protected the small holders; they were all designed to protect one particular class. They were a barricade against any suggestion that on any consideration the small holders or the local authority should be allowed a chance of getting the land they required except under considerable difficulties, and by paying considerably more than the market price. He appealed to the Leader of the Opposition whether he did not agree that these Amendments as they stood would make the Bill useless and unworkable. They would render it improbable that any small holdings would be established at all, except under such conditions that they would be in a state of bankruptcy in a few years. It was a desolating spectacle to see this kind of treatment of what was regarded as an unopposed Bill. One scarcely knew what would have happened if it had not been unopposed. The Bill as amended would not be an improvement on the Act of 1902, which had been practically inoperative. Speaking entirely for himself, but as one who had some acquaintance with the feeling which prevailed on the Ministerial Benches, he could assure the Leader of the Opposition that they would rather this Bill were dropped than that it should be passed in the form in which it had been sent back to them.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said the Amendment which permitted purchase was one of the most important Amendments made in the Bill, and undoubtedly it was conceived solely in the interests of small occupiers. He was not going to criticise the action of the representatives of the Government in another place, but he did not think they had always been fertile in reasoning. He did not know whether the hon. Member admired the defence of the Bill by the representatives of the Government in the other House. If he did not some excuse must be admitted for the majority of the other House not being persuaded by the seductive eloquence of the Minister in charge of the Bill. The most astonishing part of the hon. Member's speech was that in which he suggested that to touch the important provisions of the Bill as brought in by the Government was to be a declared enemy of the small holder.

Mr. MASTERMAN: I did not say that.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. Member had told the House that these were Amendments which it was impossible for the Government to consider. That was precisely the manner in which the efforts of the hon. Member to improve the Bill in Committee were described by the Government. Now that somebody else was altering the original terms of the Bill he was entirely converted to believe in the excellence of the measure and he was prepared to support the Government in any course they might take in dealing with another place. The hon. Member's speech smacked more of the political partisan than of the social reformer. He still regarded the hon. Member, first has a social reformer, and, secondly, as a political partisan. He hoped the corrupting influence of the House would not entirely eat away his primary instincts, and that at the close of this Parliament he would not be found a mere party hack abandoning all those social ideas of which he had been a persuasive exponent. He (Mr. Balfour) was confident that the policy of the Government in dealing with the Lords Amendments would not be conceived in the spirit which had animated the two speeches delivered on the other side of the House. He was as certain as the right hon. Gentleman that, however they might differ in regard to details, there was a common wish among all sections and in both Houses to see a really serious attempt made to facilitate the construction or reconstruction of small holdings in the country.

*Mr. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley) said the speeches delivered from the other side of the House were not directed to the question of small holdings, but to another topic—that known as "filling up the cup." He was rather surprised at the speech made by the hon. Member for North West Ham, in which he said that none of the Lords Amendments was pushed to a division. Surely he did not say that of the purchase proposals?

Mr. MASTERMAN: I said that there were quite a number of Amendments made by the Lords which had not been even suggested by hon. Gentlemen opposite.

*Mr. JESSE COLLINGS said that the Lords Amendment which gave the labourers the option of purchase would be recognised by the labouring population throughout the country with gratitude. He was quite aware that purchase was opposed to the idea of his hon. friend opposite, but that was quite another matter. The question of advancing the ratepayers' money to enable private companies to carry on their trade and make a profit out of the labourers had not been discussed at all in this House. Upon this point the Lords Amendments were good as far as they went, and would be much appreciated by traders and ordinary shopkeepers who had to pay rates, and who were going to see the rates, to which they contributed so largely, used to support private companies who were to make a profit and at the same time compete with the ratepayers themselves. Then the Lords had tried to put right the question as to county councils being coerced against their wish, and had followed the principles of representative government, which the House of Commons had abandoned. After years and years of effort local government was secured to this country, but now a Liberal Government abandoned local government and proposed to establish a local autocracy to override the will of the elected representatives of the people. He hoped those outside this House would recognise that the two violent speeches which had been delivered had nothing to do with small holdings, but were intended to fill up the cup in order that an agitation might be carried on founded upon the erroneous belief that the Lords Amendments tended to destroy the Bill.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said the hon. Member for North West Ham had stated that there had been no substantial Amendments introduced by the Lords except such as were in the interests of the landowning classes. The first substantial Amendment passed by their Lordships was to leave out Subsection 2 of Clause 5, and if the hon. Member had followed the reasons why that Amendment was moved he would have found that it was proposed in order to give this House an opportunity of considering again one of the propositions which the hon. Member himself had urged. It was to enable this House to consider whether the loss should be borne by the county council or by the central authority that the Amendment was proposed. The hon. Member who put down the Amendment in this House had not an opportunity of pressing the Amendment owing to the operation of the guillotine. He had heard with regret, though not with surprise, the speech of the right hon. Gentleman opposite. It was a style of speech which was becoming common form with the Government, who seemed to think that the proper way of dealing with the House of Lords was by objurgation. Let them come forward and present definite facts to this House, and if their proposals were rejected by the other House let the Government present them to the country. The action of the Government in trying to carry out a revolution in the constitution by objurgation, and by describing the House of Lords as ready for the scrap heap or the steam roller, or imagery of that description, was not consistent with their dignity or their sincerity. He trusted that they would hear no more of it.

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 4, line 4, agreed to.

Lords Amendment in page 4, line 7, to leave out Subsection (2),

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT, in moving that the House disagree with this Amendment, said he understood that it was made by the Lords on the motion of Viscount St. Aldwyn in order to enable this House to discuss the question of finance and the charges on county councils. He supposed that this was not technically a breach of the privileges of this House, but in passing he desired to protest against the action taken by the other House which was in effect a breach of the privileges of this House, because it was compelling them to rediscuss the matter of finance which had been settled here, and which the other House admitted they had no right to discuss themselves. He begged to move.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. CHAPLIN said he objected altogether to the statement of the right hon. Gentleman that this was in effect a breach of privilege by the House of Lords. He had consulted the highest authorities on that subject, and the right hon. Gentleman might take it from him that there was no breach of privilege. The reason why the other House raised this question was a perfectly good one. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to forget that no opportunity had ever been given to this House, as a whole, to discuss this most important clause. It was perfectly true that it was reached on one occasion when the right hon. Gentleman informed them for the first time that he was prepared to send to the county councils, and ultimately to lay upon the table, a Treasury Minute under which, when the county councils undertook to carry out a scheme, and their scheme resulted in a loss, the Treasury would be prepared to pay a certain proportion of the loss. When they were endeavouring to elicit from the right hon. Gentleman what would happen in case of default when the work was carried out by the Commissioners, the proceedings were interrupted by the guillotine. How could the right hon. Gentleman express surprise or condemnation at what the Lords had done? He would have thought that Members on the Ministerial side would have been extremely grateful to the other House for giving this House the opportunity of which they had been deprived when the Bill was under discussion on the Report stage. The Commissioners, acting in default of the county council, were to have power to require the county councils to refund to them out of the rates any loss that might be incurred, no matter how inefficient the work might have been, or how foolish the Commissioners might have been in their estimate. That power remained in the Bill. This was most important, because it had been admitted in both Houses of Parliament by the representatives of the Government that they did not mean, as a matter of fact, to coerce the county councils, and put into force the powers they had under the Bill. But nothing definite had yet been stated by the Government on that point, and that was the reason why in the House of Lords this Amendment had been moved, and why he would now move another Amendment with the view of eliciting a clear expression from the Government as to what county councils were really to expect. He wanted to know what course the Government were going to take. County Councils had an absolute right to know, and if it had not been for the action of the other House there would have been no opportunity for eliciting the least information upon the point. He hoped the Government would now state what they really meant to do. He moved the following addition to Clause 5:—"But this proviso shall not apply in the case of any scheme which the county council have declined to carry out on the ground that the same may result in a loss." What he desired to know was this—when the Government, in pursuance of the policy which seemed to be so dear to them, determined to over-ride a county council, were the council then to be mulcted in their rates by the Government, or were they not, when a scheme in opposition to their wishes had been carried out by the Commissioners and resulted in a serious loss? This was one of the most important of all the points in the Bill, and in regard to which—and it sounded like a satire on the proceedings of the House of Commons—this was the first opportunity they had had of raising a discussion.

Mr. HARCOURT said he wished to repeat that he had always hoped, and still hoped, that the cases in which the Board would over-ride a county council would be rare, and further that where the Board did over-ride a county council, and the result showed that they were wrong, and the council right, they could not and would not attempt to obtain from the council the losses which might have been incurred. But there were other expenses which might be entailed upon the Board by the default of the county council other than the actual loss in working. The mere absence of action, the loss of assistance of the officers and staff of the council, would entail costs which ought not to be paid by the central authority, and which might fairly be recovered from the council. He thought they ought to leave the Board and the Treasury to judge the circumstances of each case as it arose, and there would be no fear of any injustice being inflicted either on the county council or other bodies. He must decline to accept the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman, and he moved to disagree with the Amendment by the Lords.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Consequential Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"At the end of the words so restored to the Bill to insert the words 'But this proviso shall not apply in the case of any scheme which the county council have declined to carry out on the ground that the same may result in a loss."—(*Mr. Chaplin.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) said that in Committee an Amendment was carried, giving power to the Board of Agriculture to pay by Treasury Minute any loss to the extent of one half which had been incurred in the case of a voluntary scheme. If a scheme had been forced upon the county council, the whole loss incurred should *a fortiori* fall on the Treasury. If the loss was caused by what was called the default of the county council in refusing to carry out a scheme, he did not see why that should not be dealt with either in the Bill or in the Treasury Minute proposed to be issued. He was confident that they all desired no more than what was fair in this case, and he pressed the House to give serious consideration to the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucester, Tewkesbury) said that the Lords Amendment had been inserted for the purpose of giving an opportunity to re-discuss the question in this House. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would re-consider his decision. The Government had told them that their intentions were excellent, but they should put in the Bill what their intentions really were. It was quite conceivable that another Chancellor of the Exchequer and another President of the Board of Agriculture might arise, who would say that they did not agree with the promises of the right hon. Gentleman, and that they strongly objected to any such payment from the Treasury for losses incurred. The proposal embodied in the Amendment was in the interest of the small holder, and he held that the Government had no excuse for not putting in the Bill a provision in accordance with their professed intentions unless indeed they did not intend to carry them out.

*MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme) said that this Amendment as it had developed under the hands of the hon. Member for Wimbledon bore out the statement of his hon. friend the Member for North West Ham that every one of the Amendments moved in the other place were in the interests of the landlord party. The effect of the Amendment was that, in cases where a county council had been overridden by the central authority, the whole charge of the experiment would be transferred from the rates to the Imperial Exchequer. The obvious result would be that every county council would see that they were overruled; and as soon as County Councils understood their business the whole charge of carrying out these experiments would be transferred from the rates to the Exchequer. It would be only another example of the principle already he regretted to say enshrined in this Bill of plundering the towns for the benefit of the country landlords. The Amendment was suitable as coming from the Upper House, and it would be as suitably rejected by the House of Commons.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the speech of the Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme showed very clearly the views he had formed of the Bill. It was in fundamental contrast and in contradiction with the view of those who had brought forward the Bill. The hon. Member assumed that the schemes were to be a loss, but the whole policy of the Government was based on the assumption that no scheme should be undertaken which would be a loss. That view had been stated over and over again by the Minister in charge of the Bill, and if a scheme were started which resulted in a loss it would be in diametrical contradiction with the views expressed by the Government, and would show that the scheme was wrong *ab initio.* Who then ought to bear the loss of error and the charge resulting from it? If the Commissioners made the mistake, ought they to bear the cost of their error? The House had to choose between the two different views of the way in which the Bill was to be worked out, first, whether or not the small holdings were to be made to pay, and next as a great social reform. If the view were taken that these schemes ought never to be undertaken unless they were self-supporting, if they entailed a loss and were thus condemned as schemes, the people who made the error were those who should bear the cost of it. The Government alternative, however, was that there should never be a loss, and at the same time they proposed that the Board of Agriculture should be able to compel the county council to adopt the scheme. The Board of Agriculture was an excellent body, but it was fallible; and it was plainly indulging in a kind of agrarian speculation which had not always succeeded in the past, and a certain percentage of errors were quite certain to take place. Equity suggested that the Board of Agriculture should bear the loss, and unless they did something of the kind the plan would not work at all. How was it possible to compel the county councils to undergo the charge for schemes which they did not wish to undertake? The Government plan was ingenious. The Government said, "If you fall in with our views we will pay half the loss. If you do not, we will make you bear the whole loss." On these terms some county councils might decide to undertake voluntarily schemes which they knew would result in a loss; but there were others who would naturally say that the Board of Agriculture was pressing upon them what they knew was an impossible scheme and one which must result in a loss, and they would prefer to fight the Government and take the risk of incurring the whole loss rather than have peace with the certainty of their having to pay half the loss. This was monstrously unjust on the county councils. But what about the small holders? Was it not a pity from their point of view that there should be all this friction between the Board of Agriculture and the county councils? Experience showed that, while the Government were right to bring the county councils into consultation and co-operation, it was absurd to expect that the Bill would succeed if the county councils were required to pay half the loss on schemes that they accepted voluntarily, and the whole loss on schemes that they resisted. The county councils would hesitate to embark on schemes which were on the margin of success. There were enormous urban areas on which the county rate fell, and the ratepayers in these areas would not consent to embark on schemes of which the success was doubtful. If such schemes were to be tried, the Treasury ought to stand behind the county councils and promise to see them through. He was not averse from making experiments of this kind, or from taking a certain risk. But then the expense ought to be borne by the general community. These reasons were conclusive in favour of the Amendment, and he could not understand how anyone who desired to multiply the number of small holders could question the propriety of the Amendment. It should be supported by all who desired the Bill to be a real success and not a mere piece of political window-dressing. Anyone who desired to see the Bill work should see that the general taxpayer bore some of the cost which under this Bill had been so unjustly put on the local authorities of the particular districts.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields), said that the principle which the right hon. Gentleman now laid down was not the principle that inspired his Defaulting Authorities Act. He did not say then let society at large pay, he made the local authority pay in what he conceived to be the general interest. That was a principle with regard to which he had not now the right to complain when it was laid down in this clause. The right hon. Gentleman's suggestion was that the county councils were to be concerned in the administration of this Act, but not in the costs of working. That was a novel principle. According to the Amendment the county councils were always to be relieved of the cost when they were in default. If a county council accepted the responsibility and administered the Act as it was it was to bear a certain proportion of the loss, if any; but where a county council said, "We decline to carry out the Act," and when they converted themselves into the opposition and worked against the Board of Agriculture, they were to be freed from the whole of the cost. That Amendment carried them a very long way. The Government's position was that normally where the county council took up this burden loyally it was to be paid half the loss, if a loss were incurred. But where they refused the Exchequer were to have power to pay all or none of the loss. If the county council were unwilling for good reasons to undertake a scheme, believing that it would result in a loss, if the duty were then undertaken by the Board of Agriculture, and the county council helped by lending its administrative machinery, then the Board would be disposed to say, "You gave us fair warning, and you gave us your help, and we will pay the whole of the cost having regard to the assistance you have rendered." But if the county council made it clear that they did not intend to help in making the experiment a success, then the discretion of the Treasury would be very differently exercised, and the county council would not be relieved of the cost which their hostile action had involved. The Amendment was one which he hoped, on reflection, no sensible man would support.

VISCOUNT MORPETH (Birmingham, S.) said the Solicitor-General had remarked that this was a novel doctrine to which no sensible man should subscribe, but he was quite sure that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill was aware that the County Councils Association had represented to him that this was the point of the Bill to which they offered the strongest opposition, because by this method the Government were overriding all the traditions and principles of local self-government to which we were accustomed in this country. He was not going to be led away into a discussion of educational matters, which the hon. and learned Gentleman knew perfectly well were entirely different from those they were now discussing. In this instance the county councils, in refusing to carry out the Act, simply differed from the Government officials as to the possibility or the likelihood of the success of small holdings in the district. The right hon. Gentleman had again and again told them that as a matter of fact no charge would ever be thrown on the county council where the fault was not due to it but to the central authority. Very naturally they replied that if that was the case, why not put it in the Bill? One reason which had been given for not doing that was that there were certain initial expenses which would be thrown on the Board of Agriculture by the refusal of the county council to co-operate. He had himself moved an Amendment in Grand Committee expressly providing for that, and he had suggested that the initial and incidental expenses should be charged to the county council, but that the loss caused by the actual mistakes of the Board of Agriculture should in no case be thrown on the local authority but on the persons who had made the mistake. The right hon. Gentleman had refused the Amendment. Many people had grave doubts whether many small holdings would be created under the Bill, but no doubt hundreds of inspectors and other officials would be appointed, and it seemed to be the chief object of Liberal legislation to provide a large number of persons with engagements and salaries.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said there was an extraordinary divergence between the right hon. Gentleman and the Solicitor-General, whose speech gave them more reason for pressing this Amendment. Of course, they would have been perfectly satisfied as to the right hon. Gentleman's intention that the expenses caused by the failure of the Commissioners should not be thrown on the county councils, though they doubted whether he could bind not only his own successors but successors of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Solicitor-General, however, had put an entirely different complexion on the matter, for he had said that the Treasury if they thought that the county council had acted unreasonably would refuse to give anything at all, and in any case must have an absolute discretion in the matter. That clashed entirely with the version given by the right hon. Gentleman. He took it, however, that they must accept the right hon. Gentleman's as the official version, but the remarks of the Solicitor-General showed how it might be misunderstood even by one of the Minister's colleagues. How could they expect county councillors, who had not even heard the right hon. Gentleman's assurance, to understand it better? His hon. friends around him, under the circumstances, would certainly be justified in taking a division. The hon. Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme, in a very interesting speech, had remarked that this was one of the landlords' Amendments to which the hon. Member for North West Ham had strongly objected. The hon. Member for North West Ham had moved an Amendment in Grand Committee, to a similar effect, and had taken a division upon it.

MR. MASTERMAN (West Ham, N.) said the hon. Member would agree with him that the whole situation was completely modified by the final carrying of the Amendments of the hon. Member for Kingston.

MR. COURTHOPE said that in any case he hoped the hon. Member for West Ham would act up to his opinions and support them in the division.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 44; Noes, 145. (Division List No. 459.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,RtHn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Hn. MichaelHughHicks
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings,Rt.Hn.J.(Birmingham
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gretton, John
Guinness, Walter Edward
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Rawlinson,JohnFrederickPeel
Ronaldshay, Earl of
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Thomson,W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Walker,Col.W.H.(Lancashire)
Wilson,A.Stanley (York,E. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Alden, Percy
Asquith,Rt.Hon.HerbertHenry
Baker,JosephA.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring,Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Beauchamp, E.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell,SirJ.H.(Essex,Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt. Hn.SydneyCharles
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Rt. Hon. Winston S,
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, Sir William Randal
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone,Rt.Hn. HerbertJohn
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon,RtHn.Sir W.Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen ,W.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Horniman, Emslie John
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Kekewich, Sir George
King,Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lambert, George
Lardner, James Carrige Rushe
Lea,HughCecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Levy, Sir Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks,G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Malley, William
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Price,C.E. (Edinburgh,Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Richards,T.F. (Wolverhampt'n
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel,HerbertL.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seely, Colonel
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Snowden, P.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
ThompsonJ.W.H. (Somerset,E.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.

Walters, John Tudor
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Mr. HARCOURT said in the other House an Amendment was carried against the Government that some notification should be made by the Board to Parliament when they were acting in default of the county council. He thought that was not an undesirable thing, and he proposed to add the following subsection to Clause 5:—"Any order made by the Board directing the Commissioners to carry a scheme into effect shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament, as soon as may be after it is made."

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 7, line 32, after the word 'to' to insert the words 'purchase or,'"

Read a second time.

Mr. HARCOURT moved to disagree with this Amendment, the effect of which would have been to permit persons to "purchase" as well as to "lease" land for small holdings from a county council. He said the Bill enabled land to be sold to small holders, if it had been acquired by agreement. He had always thought that most of the land acquired under this Bill would be acquired by agreement. If that was so, Members like the right hon. Member for Bordesley, who desired that small landholders should be set up on land which they had bought, would be satisfied. But he was more and more impressed, the more he looked into it, that if they put this alternative power into the Bill they would be putting a power of obstruction into the hands of a county council which did not wish to act. That, he believed, would be a very serious engine in the hands of those who did not wish the Bill to work, and on that ground, if on no other, he must decline to accept the Amendment. He would not restate his reasons against a policy of purchase, but he would like this declaration of a general principle by the Conservative Party and the House of Lords that it was perfectly reasonable and satisfactory wherever they might think necessary to purchase land compulsorily and transfer it from one person to another to be noted. He did not think it was necessary or requisite for this Bill to provide for purchase, in fact he thought it would be a disadvantage. He had noted the readiness of the Party opposite both in this House and in another place to accept this principle, and it would be useful to remember that when they desired to apply the principle to other objects and under other circumstances.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

Mr. CHAPLIN said he did not believe they were wise in relying entirely on the principle of hiring for the purpose of establishing small holdings. He thought it most extraordinary that no member of the Government had ever thought it worth his while to allude to the evidence as to the results of hiring presented to Parliament by the President of the Board of Agriculture. There it was stated that in regard to allotments, which were now allowed to extend to four acres, and which were nothing but small holdings, where they had been hired people had become dissatisfied with them, and in more than half the counties of England they had been given up in all directions. It was scarcely credible that, although the attention of the Government had been repeatedly called to such evidence, not a single Minister had attempted to answer it, and they had never attempted to take up the challenge. The right hon. Gentleman himself was hostile to the principle of ownership, and he had said that this Amendment in some counties would be used as an engine of obstruction, and to prevent the Bill being put into operation. But did not the right hon. Gentleman see that under his own Bill, supposing that there was no demand for ownership, that would not in the least relieve the county council from their duty of supplying holdings on tenancy, if they were desired? There was already an Act in existence which required the county councils to do this, and provide small holdings for the people who desired to lease them. Consequently the objection raised by the right hon. Gentleman that the Amendment would provide a weapon for obstruction to the county council fell absolutely to the ground. He agreed that the Amendment might not have any effect, because the power given to the county councils would be purely permissive. He read the other day in a Radical journal a vehement attack upon the House of Lords because they had insisted upon the option of purchase which had been rejected by such a large majority in this House. That was absolutely untrue and was altogether a fallacy. No option of purchase had been restored or put into the Bill which did not exist before. Power to purchase was given to the county councils in Clause 26. The county councils, having already got the power to purchase, it was proposed by this Bill to deprive them, when they had got the land, of all power of reselling it. He was speaking of land purchased compulsorily. If the Government were not hostile to the creation of small ownerships, why did they object to this Amendment? On the Third Reading of the Bill the right hon. Gentleman strongly repudiated any hostility to the creation of small ownerships on the part of the Government, and said they had no objection to anything of the kind, although they had not thought it necessary in this Bill to do anything to increase them. In that case he could not understand why the right hon. Gentleman refused to support this Amendment, because it was purely permissive in character, and imposed no obligation whatever upon the county councils to resell land instead of letting it on lease. All the Lords Amendment did was to give the county councils power to sell the land if for any purpose or under any conditions they found that course desirable. What objection could there be to a proposal of that kind? The right hon. Gentleman stated the other night that the Bill might possibly prove unsuccessful, and that if that turned out to be the case the Government would have to take other steps to make it a success. He was strongly convinced that the hiring system was a wrong one and was foredoomed to failure. He wanted to enable the Government to get out of the mess they were getting into. If hiring failed, this Amendment would enable them to try purchase. If hiring was not a failure, there would be no necessity to resort to purchase. He had endeavoured to put before the House reasons why the Amendment was absolutely innocuous, although, under certain possible conditions, it might be of the greatest use. He hoped the House would not disagree with the Amendment.

Mr. WINFREY (Norfolk, S.W.) said the right hon. Gentleman had lost sight of the fact that the Small Holdings Act of 1892 gave the county councils power to let land. But they could not find small holders willing to purchase land, and they would not deal with them on any other terms. They desired to give the county council power to sell. They had power after all, and this Amendment would only affect one acre in 100. It could not affect land which the county council had bought for leasing purposes, or land which the county councils had bought in the open market. He ventured to say that nine-tenths of the land that they bought would be bought in the open market, and it could be resold to small holders if the county councils so wished it. The Amendment was absolutely limited to land purchase by compulsion.

MR. CHAPLIN: I have just said so.

MR. WINFREY said he wished to emphasise that argument. Under the circumstances he thought he was justified in saying that when land was purchased by compulsion the county council should not resell it. He was very glad that the right hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill had determined to adhere to the clause as it stood.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS said that if he wanted further confirmation of his belief that ownership was the true settlement of this question he would find it, not only in the arguments which had been used that day, but in the silence of hon. Members on the other side of the House. This Amendment was defeated in the Grand Committee, and on the Report stage it was moved by the hon. Baronet the Member for the Chippenham Division. He believed it was supported by a large number on the Ministerial side of the House. He would repeat the appeal which the hon. Member for the Chippenham Division then made that in the division lobby the followers of the Government should be left free to follow their own convictions. He believed if that were done the Amendment would be carried by a large majority. It was only an option that was asked for; it was not proposed to compel the county council to sell. He expected to be in the position of having to acknowledge that the House of Lords in this case was on the side of the peasantry of the country, and that the Government—he would not say hon. Members opposite, because that would be unfair — were against them. If it were explained to parish audiences what the House of Lords had tried to do, and what the Government were refusing to do, he thought it would be agreed that the Government were emptying the cup against the House of Lords rather than filling it up. What had operated against the Act of 1892 was the poverty of the people who wished to become small holders. When the Government denounced that Act, they should remember that they had refused to remove the bar of poverty. Could there be a more poverty-stricken argument than the one used that it was proposed to dispossess one owner in order to make another. If the county council dispossessed one owner, they would put thirty-two in his place in the shape of peasant proprietors. His opinions on that question were well known, and he would not detain the House by repeating what he had stated many times. Hon. Members opposite in refusing to support the Amendment were worshipping in a temple in which they were not believers. If they were to speak their mind that would be apparent. Reference had been made to Lord Onslow's Committee, and he would remind the House that all the witnesses, with one exception, who were examined before the Committee were in favour of what he was contending for. Those who were best qualified to give an opinion on the question were all in favour of ownership, if the financial difficulty were removed. Under this Bill the small holders would pay for the land which they occupied. They had been told that the refusal to sell was the first step towards the nationalisation of the land. If the country wanted nationalisation of the land let the country pay for it, and not adopt the mean expedient of making the labourers pay for it and then take the land from them. The other day the hon. Member for the Chippenham division mentioned what took place at the International Housing Conference, which was attended by delegates from Belgium, Germany and other countries. These delegates attributed all the advantages of their countries over ours in rural matters to the fact that the men owned the land. The report of the meeting stated that the land Socialist speaker used some violent language in opposition and that a scene followed. If, as the hon. Member opposite had said, this Amendment would only affect one acre in 100 that was a reason why the Amendment should be accepted. The hon. Member for South-West Norfolk in his own district had done good work in connection with small holdings, but from personal inquiry he found that there were not 10 per cent. of the tenants who would not give anything to be owners, and yet the hon. Member was a party to refusing this Amendment which simply proposed to give them the chance of becoming owners. This Government could give £5,000,000 for doubtful purposes in the Transvaal, but when the labourers of England wanted not so large a sum, but £100,000 or £200,000 to put them on the land, the door was banged in their faces. They would have to come to ownership as the ultimate solution of this question. He believed that if the labourers of this country were polled, it would be found that they were almost unanimously in favour of ownership. He hoped the Government would not resist this reasonable Amendment. The occupiers would not be obliged to become owners. The Amendment simply gave them the chance of becoming the owners of the land they tilled. Nothing could be more reasonable than that suggestion. He hoped hon. Members would not be prejudiced because it had been sent down by the Lords. He would like to hear from private Members representing rural constituencies some argument as to why the Amendment should not be carried. It was no answer to say that they thought tenancies better, or that they thought the occupiers would rather be tenants. He and his friends only wished to give them the option of becoming owners.

*MR. NAPIER (Kent, Faversham) said that the right hon. Gentlemen in charge of the Bill had stated he could not accept the Amendment because he feared that if the county council had the option of leasing or selling they would make that the excuse for not putting the Act into force. The provisions of the Bill relating to schemes would however render that excuse of no validity. He deeply regretted that the Liberal Government, by not accepting the Amendment, had laid itself open to the charge to which it was not justly liable but which had been made out of doors, that they were not in favour of a peasant proprietary.

*MR. JESSIE COLLINGS: They have said so.

*MR. NAPIER said the Prime Minister had declared that he was in favour of increasing the number of peasant proprietors in the country.

*SIR RANDAL CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said he was entirely in agreement with one statement and one statement only of the right hon. Member for Bordesley, viz., that his views on ownerships were perfectly well known in the House. They ought to be, considering that the right hon. Gentleman had made the same speech over and over again during the fifteen meetings of the Committee upstairs and three times in the House. He was very glad that a clear issue was before the House, and he was satisfied that if a division were taken upon it their verdict would be of the same character as that of the Committee. The issue was whether the people whom the Bill was intended to benefit should be owners or occupiers. In the discussions that took place in Committee upstairs reference was made to the peasant proprietors of France, and they were advised to imitate the example which had been set in that country at the Great Revolution. But the information he received from reliable sources in France was, that the number of peasant proprietors in that country was, and had been for a long time, diminishing; and he did not want that, in a generation or two, the same results should follow from the legislation they were now enacting. He hoped there would be a permanent settlement of the question, and that wealthy capitalists would not have the opportunity of buying up small proprietors in order to aggregate the land into large estates. That was the process that was going on slowly but surely in France. The poor peasants were tempted by fancy prices offered by wealthy men and by the tricks of usurers to part with their holdings. If they created a number of small proprietors in this country, what was there to prevent the wealthy man tempting the poor man to resell his land and by such means restoring the evils of the present system, future generations having to do the work all over again. This Bill, if carried into law, would make it very difficult if not impossible to recreate existing evils. The right. hon. Member for the Bordesley Division said the Bill was based on Socialist lines, but the small Socialist wing of the House were not present to support it, and that in itself answered the right hon. Gentleman's statement. Having regard to the opportunities hon. Gentlemen opposite had of urging their views during the fifteen days the Bill was in Committee, when they opposed the Bill line by line, and also on the Second Reading and Report stages, he thought they might be content with what they had done and allow it as quickly as possible to pass into law.

*MR. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.) said he much regretted that the Government could not accept this option to purchase. They had been told, and he believed it, that there would be very little land taken compulsorily. He hoped by far the large portion would be taken optionally and that many more county councils would be willing to do what they could to forward this Bill than was generally supposed. If that was so, then what was called the vice of purchase by compulsion would not come in very much, but optional purchase would be common enough, as it was only in regard to the small portions of land takan by compulsion that purchase would be prohibited. Under the whole of the voluntary part of the Bill the small holders would be able to purchase. That was obvious from the clause itself. All that hon. Gentlemen opposite desired was to give the option to purchase as well as to lease under the compulsory clause. It also fitted in with Clause 2, under which the Commissioners would ascertain the extent to which there was a demand for small holdings and would, he supposed, go round the country and report to the Board of Agriculture that so many people in a district wanted to buy small holdings, and so many wanted to lease them, and it would depend upon how much land was sold optionally whether those who desired to acquire it by purchase could do so. On the other hand, when land was taken compulsorily and leased, with regard to that minute portion, the power to purchase would not obtain. He regretted that this option of purchase was not given, because it was evidently a mere matter of detail in no way affecting the principle of the Bill, which had his warm support.

*MR. GRETTON (Rutland) said he thought the hon. Member who had just sat down was under a misapprehension with regard to this Bill. Over and over again members of the Government responsible for it had declared it was a hiring Bill. In this clause there was no option of purchase whatever. All it said was that county councils desiring to lease could do so compulsorily. Again and again they had tried to improve the Small Holdings Act of 1902, by moving amendments to this Bill, which the Government as steadily refused to accept. It was a remarkable thing that all through the debates all those simple souls in the House who were really anxious for the establishment of small holdings supported this option of purchase, and only those who viewed the inner meaning of the Bill supported the Government. He believed that the real object of the Bill was political and that the Government did not wish to establish small proprietors in this country. If their object was really to set up a free and independent peasantry, by rejecting this Amendment they would damnify their own measure.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) said that, speaking for a large agricultural constituency, he knew there was no desire in that constituency for the purchase of small holdings, but there was a very strong desire among the labourers and small farmers who had saved a little money to obtain small holdings. They would much prefer the Bill as it passed the House of Commons to the Bill in the form in which it had come down to them from the House of Lords. They did not seek compulsory powers to expropriate the great landlords for the purpose of setting up a great number of small landlords who, probably under the pressure of money-lenders, would sell the land again. They had not idolised the existing landowners, nevertheless they did not think that such landowners as would come after in the manner he described would be better; in fact they thought they might be worse.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 121; Noes, 30. (Division List No. 460.)

AYES.

Alden, Percy.
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury,E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring,Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell,SirJ.H.(Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton,Rt.Hn. Sydney Charles
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cox, Harold
Cremer, Sir William Randal
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dobson, Thomas W.
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Grant, Corrie
Gulland, John W.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Horniman, Emslie John
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T, H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
King,Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lea,HughCecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese,SirJosephF. (Accrington)
Lever, A. Levy(Essex, Harwich
Levy, Sir Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal,E.)
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks,G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montgomery, H. G.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Nicholls, George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry

O'Malley, William
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F.(Wolverhampt'n
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson,Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, HerbertL.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Snowden, P.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Toulmin, George
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
Whitley,John Henry(Halifax)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach,HnMichaelHughHicks
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings,Rt.Hn.J.(Birmingham
Courthope, G. Loyd
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gretton, John
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington
Rawlinson,JohnFrederickPeel
Ronaldshay, Earl of
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Thomson,W.Mitchell-(Lanark)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Forster.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 4, line 40, after the word 'land' to insert: '(3) No land shall be acquired by a county council without their county except with the consent of the council of the county in which such land is situate, provided that any county council aggrieved by a refusal to give such consent may appeal to the Board, and the Board shall have power finally to determine all questions arising under this subsection and to settle the terms of arrangement (if any) between the county councils of their respective counties,'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT, in asking the House to disagree with the Lords Amendment, said he had given a pledge to the late Chancellor of the Exchequer the right hon. Member for East Worcestershire, who had expressed great anxiety that the Birmingham authorities should have power to take or acquire land in Worcestershire. Before compulsory powers were put into force for acquiring land in another county the Board of Agriculture had to be consulted, and it alone would confer the compulsory powers.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. CHAPLIN said that in this case there was a provision that if the county council refused to give consent the Board of Agriculture might, under the subsection, determine all questions. He was not going to put the House to the trouble of dividing; he knew it would be perfectly useless, but he thought the alteration made in another place was perfectly reasonable, and that the Amendment ought to be accepted.

VISCOUNT MORPETH said the Government's proposal would lead to a great deal of friction in the future, and that it would be a source of bad administration and extravagance. It violated the principle that the people of a county ought to have a voice in their self-government, and, further, if a neighbouring county council invaded their area they would have no protection at all, but would be entirely at the mercy of what was in this connection a foreign authority.

MR. HARCOURT: They have the protection of the Board of Agriculture.

VISCOUNT MORPETH said they had not that amount of confidence in the Board of Agriculture; he would rather have the protection of his own county council and such influence as he could exert over his brother electors than the Board of Agriculture in London.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington), said he quite agreed with the noble Lord. In Somersetshire they were perfectly willing to give these powers to the county council, but what they objected to was the County Council of London or some great borough sending men down to be placed on the land in different counties, and using those counties as colonies. They were willing to extend hospitality to their own county, but not to London and to other parts of the country. They believed that the best way to arrest rural depopulation was to throw the land open to men who knew something about cultivation, and were skilled labourers, and not to men from cities who had no agricultural knowledge, who must inevitably make a failure, and who in the end might become a charge on the ratepayers.

MR. HARCOURT said he had been informed that London had no intention of relieving its congestion at the expense of Somerset. The Board of Agriculture would take no steps to associate the population of a town with any county without carefully considering whether it was likely to be beneficial.

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 5, line 2, after the words 'for' to insert the word 'selling or,' and after the word 'and' to insert the words 'sold or,'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT said he did not know that it was necessary to pursue the question. This was a consequential Amendment, and he moved to disagree.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 5, line 19, after the word 'constituted' to insert the words 'under rules approved by the Board,'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT said these words were unnecessary, and he moved to disagree. The words confined approval to the rule, but he wanted the Board to consider the constitution of the whole of these Associations, and he did not think the mere approval of the rule was sufficient.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 5, line 33, after the word 'council,' to insert the words 'as agricultural holdings.'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT moved to disagree. It was obvious that these words were not necessary in this place, because the county council could only deal with the land so acquired for the purpose of small holdings and allotments. The words of the clause were carefully drawn, so that not more than one dwelling-house for occupation should be erected on one small holding.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 6, to leave out Clause 13,"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT said that when he saw this Amendment on the paper his heart bled for the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bordesley, because the clause had been specially inserted in order to meet his views. But he had received a subsequent assurance that the clause was omitted solely because the repeal was included in the schedule of the Bill. The noble Lord, however, who had carried this Amendment, had not realised the statutory rule that no substantive repeal could be put in the schedule without being in the body of the Bill; therefore, it would be necessary to reinstate Clause 13. He moved to disagree with the Lords Amendment.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 7, line 3, after the word 'district' to insert the words 'as agents for the county council,'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT said that these words were in the Local Government Act of 1894, Section 4, which provided that the county council might employ other subsidiary authorities in their district. He moved to agree.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 10, lines 16 to 20, to leave out Subsection (2) and to insert '(2) The powers of improving and adapting land for allotments under the Allotments Act shall include power to erect or permit to be erected any stable, cowhouse, or barn,'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT said that this was an Amendment made in the House of Lords on the Third Reading. The noble Lord had found that by the removal of the subsection there would not be power under the existing law to erect even a pig-stye upon the allotment. The right which he desired originally to extend by the subsection was in accordance with the recommendation of Lord Onslow's Committee. It was quite clear that they must have larger powers to deal with buildings on allotments, especially as they had increased the size of the allotments. Surely, it was quite a sufficient protection that there was not to be erected more than one house for occupation on any one allotment. He moved to disagree with the Amendment.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 11, line 20, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In line 20, after the word 'section' to insert the words 'and have refused to comply with a representation made by the council of the urban district or parish for the compulsory acquisition of land for allotments,'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT said it was extremely difficult to understand what this amendment meant. He thought there must be some misunderstanding, and the right hon. Gentleman would perhaps consent to disagree.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 12, line 16, to leave out from the word 'shall' to the end of line 19, and to insert the words 'empower the council to acquire the land in accordance with the provisions of this Act,'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT said the object of the words struck out by the Lords was to avoid any subsequent litigation. There must be a point at which litigation should be stopped, otherwise the county council would never be in a position to know when they could proceed to adapt and build upon the land. By the Bill as it left this House that point was when the order had been made absolute by the Board of Agriculture. He moved to disagree.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. CHAPLIN said there was no doubt that this Amendment was of very great importance, and he would like the House to consider the answer to one question which he was going to put. The Bill said that the Order when so confirmed was to become final, and was to be conclusive evidence that the requirements of this Act had been complied with, and that the Order had been duly made within the powers of this Act. After all, none of them were infallible, not even the Board of Agriculture. Supposing for a moment that the requirements had not been complied with, and that the Order had not been duly made, and was not within the powers of the Act, what was going to be the position then? The Board of Agriculture, by the clause as it stood, had a very wide, and it seemed to him, dangerous power. It would be in a position which would enable them to over-ride a different opinion on the part of the Courts; it made the Board of Agriculture a Court in itself finally to decide upon its own acts and its own proceedings. He was informed that this power was very rarely inserted in Acts of Parliament, though, he was told, that no doubt it was in some Acts. It was not a usual thing to insert in an Act, and why it should be inserted in a Bill dealing with this particular question he really did not understand. It seemed to him to be giving a very dangerous power to the Board of Agriculture, who were no more entitled to have it than any other Department of the Government, or anybody else. He thought a power of appeal ought to be given in, at all events, those cases where the Commissioners acted in default of the county council. Such a power of appeal was given in the Irish Evicted Tenants Bill, and he could not understand why it should be refused here. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider this proposal.

Sir W. ROBSON said he was sorry that the right hon. Gentleman took such a serious view of the effect of these words. The landlord was not, under the clause as it left this House, deprived of any right of appeal either to the Board or to the Courts that he would have except when a certain stage—when the Order had been made absolute—had been reached. There were all the usual legal remedies before the Order was made, and the words of the Bill had been taken word for word from another statute. The Light Railways Act was a parallel case. The moment the Order was made it ought to be treated as final in order to prevent any further disputes and to avoid having the matter reopened. They were only following precedent in this matter, and he felt sure the House would agree with him when he said that it would be a great mistake after the Order had been made, after the man had been put into the tenancy and had probably erected buildings on the land, to allow anybody to raise a dispute.

Mr. CHAPLIN said the hon. and learned Gentleman had not met his point that an appeal was given under the Evicted Tenants Bill and refused in this Bill.

Mr. CAVE put the case of an Order containing provisions which went beyond the Act. If the words omitted in another place remained, the person whose land was taken under the Order, which, on his hypothesis, was beyond the powers of the Act, would have no redress at all. The mere fact that a public department, rightly or wrongly, had confirmed the Order would be conclusive. Whether there was precedent or not, that was a wrong thing to put in an Act of Parliament. In many cases it was impossible for owners to intervene until the Order was actually made. Let them imagine a case where a Board was going to confirm an Order and the owner objected. He would have no chance whatever of succeeding. When an Order was wrongly confirmed and came to be enforced, surely the owner had a right to say, "This Order exceeds the power given under the Act of Parliament." He hoped his hon. friend would press this Amendment to a division.

Mr. WINFREY pointed out that there would be two inquiries before the Order was made.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 130; Noes, 28. (Division List No. 461.)

AYES.

Alden, Percy
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Beauchamp, E.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell,SirJH(Essex.Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brunner,J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Burns Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,RtHn. RichardKnight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Corbett,CH(SussexE.Gr'inst'd)
Cox, Harold
Cremer, Sir William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dobson, Thomas W.
Edwards, Clements (Denbigh)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Grant, Corrie
Gulland, John W.
Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazelton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Horniman, Emslie John
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
King,Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Sir Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk Bg'hs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.

Masterman, C. F. G.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montgomery, H. G,
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Norton, Capt, Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Malley, William
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Waller Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Richards, TF(Wolverhampton
Roberts, Charles, H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sherwell, Arthur James
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Snowden, P.
Stanley, Albert (Staffs., N.W.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Thompson,J.H.W.(Somerset, E
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Ward, John (Stake upon Trent
Ward, W(Dudley(Southampton
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt Hn.Sir AlexF.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Hn. MichaelHughHicks
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings,Rt.Hn.J(Birmingham)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gretton, John
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hunt, Rowland
Magnus, Sir Philip
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Ronaldshay, Earl of
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Hills and Mr. Fell.

Amendment—

"In page 12, line 22, after the word 'acquired' to insert the words 'and every such order shall, if so required by the owner of the land to be acquired, provide for the creation of such new easements as are reasonably necessary to secure the continued use and enjoyment by such owner and his tenants of all means of access, drainage, water supply, and other similar conveniences theretofore used or enjoyed by them over the land to be acquired: provided that, notwithstanding anything contained in this subsection, no new easement created by or in pursuance of such order over land hired by a council shall continue beyond the determination of such hiring,'"

Read a second time and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 15, lines 24 and 25, to leave out the words 'authorised by an order under this Act to be.'"

Read a second time.

Sir W. ROBSON, in moving that the House disagree with the Amendment, said it was really consequential on the Amendment decided by the last division.

Mr. CHAPLIN said he understood this Amendment by the Lords was accepted by the Government.

Sir W. ROBSON said his noble friend the Lord Chancellor thought that the words did not make very much difference.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 15, lines 25 and 26, to leave out the words 'for the purposes of small holdings or allotments' and to insert the words 'under this Act.'"

Read a second time.

Sir W. ROBSON moved to agree with the Lords Amendment to leave out the words "for the purposes of small holdings or allotments."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords Amendment, to leave out the words 'for the purposes of small holdings or allotments.'"—(*Sir W. Robson.*)

Motion agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the House disagree with the Lords Amendment to insert 'under this Act.'"—(*Sir W. Robson.*)

Motion agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 15, line 27, to leave out the words 'or other land,' and to insert the words 'home farm or is otherwise,'"

Read a second time.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'home farm.'"—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'home farm' stand part of the Lords Amendment."

Mr. CHAPLIN said he was in the House of Lords when this matter was discussed and he remembered distinctly that the noble Lord in charge of the Bill accepted this Amendment on behalf of the Government.

Mr. HICKS BEACH asked why the Government proposed to leave out these words.

Sir W. ROBSON said he was instructed that the Government did not accept the words "home farm."

Mr. WINFREY sad the Government offered to accept the words "home farm on any estate," but the words "on any estate" were negatived.

Mr. CAVE wished to know what was the difference. If the words "on any estate" were not objectionable, he could not see why the words "home farm" were objectionable.

Mr. HARCOURT said in Committee and also on the Report Stage in that House, the right hon. Gentleman opposite agreed that it would be unwise to put the words "home farm" in this clause, on the ground that the person who was to decide whether a farm was to be taken or not would say the clause stated specifically the only sort of farm that was not to be taken. It was generally agreed that it was an unwise limitation. It would be a mistake from the right hon. Gentleman's own point of view to put those words in the clause. The words "on any estate" had in law some limiting effect. The Government proposed to disagree with the insertion of "home farm," but to agree with the remainder of the Amendment. In all the discussions of this measure he had done his best only to raise points which seemed to him to be worthy of serious consideration, and he was grievously disappointed that the right hon. Gentleman should sweep away the words altogether.

Mr. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) suggested by way of compromise to put in the words "home farm on the estate."

Mr. HARCOURT said that those words were offered and rejected by the House of Lords.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes 35; Noes, 136. (Division List No. 462.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, RtHn. SirAlex. F.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Hn. MichaelHughHicks
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. VictorC. W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Jaoicey-
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Guinness, Walter Edward
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Magnus, Sir Philip
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease, HerbertPike (Darlington
Rawlinson, John FrederickPeel
Ronaldshay, Earl of
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Gretton and Mr. Georg Faber.

NOES.

Alden, Percy
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Beauchamp, E.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, SirJ. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine

Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton,Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.Richar Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Corbett,C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, Sir William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dobson, Thomas W.
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Grant, Corrie
Gulland, John W.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Horniman, Emslie John
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lea,HughCecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese,SirJosephW.(Accrington
Lever,A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Sir Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks,G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montgomery, H. G.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson,SirW.D. (Colchester)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Richards,T.F.(Wolverhampton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, SirWilliam Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel,HerbertL.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sherwell, Arthur James
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Snowden, P.
Stanley, Albert (Staffs., N.W)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A Pease.

Amendment, as amended, and agreed to.

Consequential Amendment made.

A consequential Amendment made to the Bill.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 15, line 28, after the word 'dwelling-house,' to insert the words 'or which is woodland not wholly surrounded by land acquired by a council under this Act,'"

Read a second time, and amended, by inserting after the first word "by," the words "or adjacent to."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 15, line 31, after the word 'undertaking,' to insert the words 'or includes the site of any ancient monument or place of historic or archæological interest,'" the next Amendment.

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT said he was sorry he could not accept these words, but he did not think that the House need have the least doubt that those sites would be properly preserved. He might point out that a place of historic interest might be every battlefield over the whole country, which was now occupied as agricultural land. That obviously was not the meaning intended by the Lords Amendment. No land could be taken compulsorily without the order of the Board of Agriculture, and the House might be satisfied that the Board would never authorise the taking of any place which was the site of an ancient monument or place of historic or archæological interest. If by any chance they failed, there was the First Commissioner of Works, who was authorised to protect these things.

Mr. CHAPLIN asked the First Commissioner of Works if it was not the fact that the President of the Board of Agriculture accepted this Amendment in the House of Lords?

Mr. HARCOURT said that the noble Lord had allowed the Amendment to be put in order that it might be carefully considered afterwards.

Mr. CHAPLIN said he had full confidence in the First Commissioner of Works.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 16, line 4, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 16, line 4, to leave out from the word 'holding' to the end of the subsection and to insert the words 'which either does not exceed fifty acres, or, if exceeding fifty acres, is of an annual value for the purposes of income-tax not exceeding £50, nor any part of such holding shall be acquired compulsorily under this Act.'"

Read a secone time.

Mr. HARCOURT said he was not able to accept the Amendment as it stood. He would take a rather exaggerated case in order to make the thing clear. Suppose there was a hill farm or a down farm, let at 1s. per acre, and that it consisted of 1,000 acres, not an acre of it could be taken for a small holding for the purposes of intensive cultivation, unless 50 acres were taken. As he had the opportunity he intended to move to make the subsection read: "No holding which either does not exceed fifty acres, or, if exceeding fifty acres, is of an annual value for the purposes of income-tax, not exceeding £50, nor any part of such holding shall be acquired compulsorily under this Act.'

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Mr. CHAPLIN: The right hon. Gentleman seemed somewhat apprehensive as to whether a desirable small holding might be cut out of a farm of 1,000 acres let at 1s. an acre. All he could say was, "God help the small holder" under such conditions. He thought the right hon. Gentleman's reason for disagreeing with the Lords Amendment was scarcely worthy of consideration. It was not a great thing to ask. The words were taken out of the definition of the small holding itself, and it seemed a little unreasonable to refuse not to interfere with a holding which was the exact description of a small holding under the terms of the Small Holdings Act of 1902 and incorporated in this Act.

Mr. HICKS BEACH said that all this Amendment did was to exempt a holding defined in this Bill as a small holding. If it was objectionable that such a holding should be taken and broken up for small holdings or allotments it was as objectionable to create a similar holding which would be defined as a small holding under this Bill. He did not think the reasons given for refusing to accept the Lords Amendments were reasonable.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 134; Noes, 37. (Division List No. 463.)

AYES.

Alden, Percy
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Beauchamp, E.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, Sir William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dobson, Thomas W.
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)

Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Grant, Corrie
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Rt Hn. Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Horniman, Emslie John
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lambert, George
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras) E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Levy, Sir Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montgomery, H. G.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhampton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert F. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Snowden, P.
Stanley, Albert (Staffs., N. W.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bowles, G. Stewart
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingham
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Guinness, Walter Edward
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Ronaldshay, Earl of
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Gretton and Mr. Hicks Beach.

Amendments—

"In page 16, line 4, to leave out from the word 'holding' to the end of the subsection, and to insert the words 'which either does not exceed fifty acres, or, if exceeding fifty acres, is of an annual value for the purposes of income-tax not exceeding fifty pounds, nor any part of such holding shall be acquired compulsorily under this Act.'"

"In page 16, line 8, after the word 'shall' to insert the words 'subject to the restriction by this Act imposed.'"

Read a second time and agreed to.

Lords Amendments—

"In page 16, line 36, after the word 'purposes' to insert the words 'or for the making of roads, reservoirs, railways, or other similar works necessary for the improvement and development of the estate.'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT said these words appeared to be too large an extension of the general wording of the Bill; but he believed he would meet the wishes of those who moved them if he moved to disagree with the Amendment, and to insert in line 36, after the words "purposes," the words "or for roads necessary therefor." He moved.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. CHAPLIN asked was it a fact that the right hon. Gentleman proposed to make no provision except for roads?

MR. HARCOURT: That is so.

MR. CHAPLIN thought they might leave out railways and reservoirs, but "other similar works necessary for the improvement and development of the estate" were very important.

MR. HARCOURT said he had reason to believe the words he had suggested would be acceptable.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment made to the Bill instead of the last Lords Amendment disagreed to, by inserting in line 36 after the word "purposes," the words "or for roads necessary therefor."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Lords Amendment—

"In page 17, at the end of Clause 33, to insert the words 'Where the land has been hired compulsorily by the Commissioners acting in default of a county council, any question as to the right of the landlord to resume possession of the land or any part thereof under this section shall be determined by an arbitrator appointed by the Lord Chief Justice of England.'"

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 18, lines 13 and 14, to leave out Subsection (4)."—read a second timn.

MR. HARCOURT said it was impossible to accept this Amendment. The enactment which the Government had proposed to repeal by this clause was the one that prohibited the erection on an allotment of any building except a toolhouse, shed, fowl-house, or pigsty, and compelled the local authority to pull down any buildings that were erected. It had always been the intention of the Government under this Bill that the clause as to buildings should be extended, and for that reason he moved that the House do disagree with this Amendment.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 19, at the end of Clause 36, to insert the words '(3) Where any receipts or payments of money under this Act are entrusted by the county council to the Small Holdings and Allotments Committee, or any sub-committee thereof, the accounts of those receipts and payments shall be accounts of the county council, and made up and audited accordingly.'"

MR. HARCOURT: I move to agree with this Amendment. We desire that these accounts should be subject to audit.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 19, line 28, to leave out the words any society.'"—read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT said this and the three following Amendments were consequential, and had been put in by the Government in another place, in response to a very reasonable objection that was taken, to make it quite clear that they did not guarantee the solvency of any society, but simply the definite advance to it of a sum of money. He moved to agree with the Lords Amendments.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 20, line 39, agreed.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 20, line 39, after the word 'appointed' to insert the words 'in default of agreement between the parties.'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT moved to disagree.

MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) asked if there was any explanation to be given.

SIR W. ROBSON said repeated discussions had already taken place on this. The reason was that the State had undertaken to pay the arbitrator, and it was desirable that they should have the appointment and not the parties.

MR. CHAPLIN considered the explanation most unsatisfactory. Why should not the parties be left to come to an agreement between themselves as to the appointment of an arbitrator? There seemed to be a desire on the part of the promoters of the Bill to put every conceivable thing they could, necessary or unnecessary, in the hands of the Board of Agriculture. Why ought it to be for the Board of Agriculture to appoint an arbitrator, when the two parties could perfectly well agree upon an arbitrator of their own? It was an entire departure from any practice they or anybody else had ever heard of in the drafting of a Bill.

MR. HICKS BEACH said the chief reason given why the Board were to appoint the arbitrator was that the Treasury were going to pay. He wished they were certain of that, because their chief contention was that they had no security that the Treasury would pay.

SIR W. ROBSON said it was part of the preliminary expenses.

MR. GEORGE FABER (York) pointed out that the Bill only said that the Board might "if it thinks fit" undertake to pay out of the Small Holdings Fund "the whole or any part of the expenses incurred by the council in relation to the acquisition of land." It was entirely in the discretion of the Board.

SIR W. ROBSON was understood to say that this point did not come within the county council's province, but it did come within that of the Treasury.

Question put, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

The House divided:—Ayes, 140; Noes, 38. (Division List No. 464.)

AYES.

Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Alden, Percy
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Beauchamp, E.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Susexs, E. Grinst'd
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, Sir William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dobson, Thomas W.
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Rt Hn. Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil G. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Hazel, D. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lambert, George
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Sir Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montgomery, H. G.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Malley, William
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare

Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhampton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sherwell, Arthur James
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Snowden, P.
Stanley, Albert (Staffs., N.W.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Balcarres, Lord
Bowles, G. Stewart
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingham
Courthope, G Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gretton, John
Guinness, Walter Edward
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Ronaldshay, Earl of
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Frederick Banbury and Mr. Hicks Beach

Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment, in page 23, line 12, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 23, line 12, after the word 'arbitrator' to insert the words 'agreed upon between the parties or in default of agreement,'"

Read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Sir W. ROBSON said this was a case in which the State was undertaking a very large part of the cost of creating small holdings, and it was necessary when undertaking this financial burden that the machinery should be as inexpensive as possible. In relation to this particular part of the Bill it was only right in these circumstances that the whole responsibility should rest with the central authority. It was by no means desirable that the local arbitrator should always decide in these cases.

Mr. CHAPLIN could not see any objection in principle to the two contending parties selecting the arbitrator. The Solicitor-General had told them that as the State was undertaking so large a part of the cost above all things the appointment of the arbitrator should be an inexpensive proceeding. It was not denied that the appointment of an arbitrator by the two parties might be the best and most proper way of coming to a decision. As regarded the expense, the Attorney-General appeared to have overlooked Subsection 6 in the same schedule which provided every conceivable check upon the cost. Surely arbitrary powers of this kind to disallow any kind of costs were unnecessary. In view of these facts the opposition of the Solicitor-General to the selection of an arbitrator by the two parties fell to the ground altogether. A more unsatisfactory reply or one less suited to the occasion he did not think he had ever heard in his life.

Mr. CAVE asked if it was the intention of the Government that the Board should undertake the preliminary expenses.

Mr. HARCOURT said he had stated constantly that that was the intention. He did not think that the Board should be compelled to pay all the expenses which might be run up, but it was always their intention to pay the preliminary expenses.

Mr. RAWLINSON contended that the two parties concerned were the best judges as to the appointment of an arbitrator. The Board had already got power to fix the amount of remuneration to be paid to the arbitrator or valuer, and therefore it was a fixed quantity, and if the parties incurred expenses above the scale fixed by the Board they would have to pay it themselves. It was well known that in many parts of the country there were certain valuers who would give satisfaction to both parties, and surely if both parties wished to have that man they ought to have that power. Was it not rather hard that the Board of Agriculture should always send down and pay the arbitrator? In one case they had a local man who could dispose of the question to the satisfaction of both parties, while in the other case they had a stranger who knew nothing of the locality, who might make a mistake and who certainly would not give the same satisfaction as a person chosen in the way he had indicated. The parties would far sooner have an arbitrator of their own choosing than one who would start possibly with a prejudice against them. He hoped the Government would reconsider their decision.

*Mr. HICKS BEACH said the argument on the score of expense had been disposed of by his hon. and learned friend. He understood the Government to prefer that local arbitrators should not be chosen.

Sir W. ROBSON said there might be a number of arbitrations in one district. In one or two cases a local arbitrator might be employed, and in others an arbitrator from headquarters might act. It might be extremely inconvenient to have local arbitrators in one or two cases and central arbitrators doing the rest of the work. The Government thought it better to have the arbitrator appointed by the central authority.

*Mr. HICKS BEACH said the speech of the hon. and learned Gentleman now was not in consonance with what he said earlier. Why did he object to the arbitrator being appointed by agreement between the two parties? The appointment of an arbitrator by the central authority might involve the Treasury in considerable expense. The land in this country differed materially in value in different counties. It might be very dangerous to send a valuer from Middlesex to Cornwall or Devonshire, because, although he acted with the very best intention, he might put a purely fictitious value on the land, which in one case might be unfair on the landlord and in another might be unfair on the Treasury or the local ratepayer.

Mr. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) said it appeared to him that this Amendment was drafted for the purpose of delaying operations——

Mr. CHAPLIN asked whether the hon. Member was entitled to impute motives to hon. Members.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must not attribute motives to Members of this House. I do not see that the observation of the hon. Gentleman is relevant to the question before the House.

Mr. J. WARD said that, if he had been allowed to finish the sentence, he was going to say that the Amendment appeared to be drafted for the purpose of delaying the arbitration proceedings. He hoped he was entitled to make that observation. It seemed to him that first of all the parties would probably disagree and that eventually an application would have to be made to the Board of Agriculture. In that way time would be lost.

MR. GRETTON said hon. Gentlemen on that side of the House had not been able to fathom the real reason for the Government's refusal to agree to this Amendment. If the parties to a dispute could agree on an arbitrator, there should be no objection to his being appointed. Did the Government wish to create a number of salaried posts and put their own friends into them? That seemed to be a feasible motive. Another reason might be that by appointing arbitrators of their own they could get a fictitious value put on the land. The Government should state exactly what their reason was.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes 140; Noes, 36. (Division List No. 465.)

AYES.

Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Alden, Percy
Baker,JosephA.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring,Godfrey(Isleof Wight)
Beauchamp, E.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell,SirJ.H.(Essex,Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, Sir William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dobson, Thomas W.
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon,RtHn.SirW.Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F W.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lambert, George
Lea,HughCecil(St.Pancras, E.)
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lever,A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Sir Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montgomery, H. G.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearson,W.H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price,C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Richards,T.F.(Wolverhampto
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sherwell, Arthur James
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Snowden, P.
Stanley, Albert (Staffs., N. W.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walters, John Tudor
Ward,John(Stoke upon Trent)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
Whitley,John Henry (Halifax)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Bowles, G. Stewart
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm'gham)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Guinness, Walter Edward
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Harrison-Broadley, H. B.
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.).

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Gretton and Earl of Ronaldshay.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 23, line 32, to leave out the words 'by the Board' and to insert the words 'under this schedule.'"

Read a second time, and disagreed to.

An Amendment made to the Bill, instead of the last Lords Amendment disagreed to "in page 23, line 32, by leaving out the words 'an arbitrator appointed by the Board,' and inserting the words 'the arbitrator,'"—(*Mr. Harcourt*)—instead thereof.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 23, line 33, to leave out from the word 'experience' to the word 'but' in line 36.'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT moved formally to agree with the Lords Amendment, because he intended to re-insert the words in page 24, after line 2, where they would be more convenient. The words had been discussed in Grand Committee. It was perfectly true that this was only one of the elements involved. The arbitrator must naturally consider rent and rating and assessment, as one of the elements which indicated the value at which he should arrive. These words were not originally in the Bill, but they represented a concession which he made in Committee—he thought it was a very good concession—and he was not prepared to recede from it.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule 1, page 24, after line 2, to insert the following paragraph, 'The arbitrator in assessing compensation to be paid for land to be compulsorily acquired shall take into consideration the rent (if any) at which the land has been last let, and the annual value at which the land is assessed for the purposes of income-tax and rating.'"

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, "In lines 35 and 36, to leave out the words 'unless otherwise agreed to keep the buildings in repair and,"

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 24, line 40, after the word 'aforesaid' to insert the words 'and (unless otherwise agreed) to pay all taxes, rates, and charges usualy borne by tenants to insure the buildings, and to keep the buildings and premises demised in repair, and shall, if the landlord has given notice in the prescribed manner that he so desires, provide for the reservation to him, and persons authorised by him, of exclusive rights of fishing and sporting over the land.'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT said that he first of all proposed to disagree with this Amendment and then to amend the Bill by inserting after "aforesaid" these words, "And unless otherwise agreed, to keep the buildings and premises demised in repair," and later on to insert in subsection (4) the words, "The terms and conditions of the hiring, including any reservation of sporting or fishing rights." He was omitting the absolute covenant to pay all taxes and rates, because, on the whole, it was more convenient that that should be a matter for settlement between the Board, the county council, and the landlord. With regard to the question of game, that point was never raised in this House, either in Committee or on Report, and Members of all shades of opinion were agreed that that was a matter which ought to be left to the discretion of the county council and the Board for settlement. It was perfectly clear that they were not setting up sporting rights. The Board, except under very exceptional circumstances, would never authorise the taking of game rights. Of course, that would inflate the rent. The people who would agree about the sporting rights would be the landlord, who might want to keep them or get rid of them; the county council, who would not want to pay a higher rent in order to hand them over to the tenant; and the Board, who would not be interested in them. It was wiser to leave the matter perfectly open. In another place there seemed to be some anxiety lest the game and fishing rights should not be considered by the valuer, if they were taken from the landlord, in assessing the rent. Therefore he proposed to provide in the Bill that the valuer should take into account "any reservation of sporting or fishing rights." He believed those words covered the whole of the question that had been raised.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Amendments made to the Bill—

"Instead of the last Lords Amendment disagreed to, by inserting in page 24, line 40, after the word 'aforesaid,' to insert the words 'and unless otherwise agreed to keep the buildings and premises demised in repair,' and by inserting in page 25, line 21, after the word 'severance' to insert the words 'the terms and conditions of hiring, including any reservation of sporting or fishing rights.'" — (*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Lords Amendment—

"In page 24, line 42, to leave out the words 'that it can be so broken without depreciating the value of the land or,'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT moved to disagree with this Amendment. It was not clear to him why these words had been taken out. They were not meant to apply to rich pasture; they were only meant to apply to poor pasture which might be made more valuable if intensively tilled. He was sure it would be a great disadvantage to have these words removed.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 25, line 2, after the word 'not,' to insert the words 'except with the consent of the landlord,' and after the word 'to,' to insert the words 'fell or cut timber or trees, or any right to.'"

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 25, line 5, after the word 'allotments,' to insert the words 'for which proper compensation shall be paid to the landlord,'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT said he proposed to amend this Amendment by adding new words. He wished to substitute for the words of the Amendment the words "and except the payment of compensation for minerals, gravel or clay so used."

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill instead of the last Lords Amendment disagreed to—

"In page 25, line 5, after the word 'allotment,' to insert the words 'except the payment of compensation for minerals, gravel, or clay so used.'"—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

MR. J. WARD asked whether gravel necessary for roads and paths was to be paid for in addition to the rent.

MR. HARCOURT said it was. He would point out that this land was taken only for agricultural purposes.

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 25, line 16, to leave out the word 'valuation,' and insert the word 'arbitration,' and leave out the word 'valuer,' and insert the words 'arbitrator agreed on between the parties or in default of agreement,'"

Read a second time.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

SIR W. ROBSON said this Amendment made a very important change in the Bill, and the House would the more forcibly appreciate the resistance of the Government to this proposal when they remembered their action with regard to the other Amendments relating to the arbitration provided for under the subsection. The Amendment before the House was to substitute an arbitrator for the valuer in cases where the hire of land was to be settled. The House would understand the difference between an arbitration and a valuation. The arbitrator sat as a Judge; he not only heard evidence but he could only proceed on evidence. Although in this particular case he was allowed to act on personal experience and knowledge, yet he was obliged to hear evidence and act upon it. The valuer on the other hand went down to the land, and he was able to make such inquiries as he thought fit. He had no need such as the arbitrator had to hear either party in the presence of the other; in other words, valuation instead of litigation was a business proceeding and, therefore, a much cheaper proceeding. It seemed to the Government that it was essentially a simpler and much cheaper transaction to hire a few acres of land, and that it should not be treated on the same footing and in the same way as if they were taking the land for a railway or some other such purpose. They were now dealing only with the hiring of land. They had left untouched the Lands Clauses Act and the provisions for arbitration in the case of purchase. In this instance they were dealing with hiring, and they were dealing with hiring, after all, on the terms and conditions of a lease. In these circumstances he would ask was it reasonable, was it sensible, to impose this dilatory and costly litigation as a condition precedent to the hiring of a few acres of land to an agricultural labourer? Hon. Gentleman opposite had often expressed their desire to make this Bill workable, and he was sure that they would see that if they inserted this Amendment and imposed these arbitrators at this stage they would condemn the Bill to absolute sterility. They had had Acts of Parliament in which the public authority had been allowed to take land compulsorily for this purpose, and when they had come into operation they were ineffective because of the cost of the proceedings. There could not be any reasonable objection to allowing in this Bill what was the invariable rule in ordinary business transactions regarding agriculture. Where two parties bargained for the renting of land there was a valuation. But this Amendment proposed arbitration, and he hoped that the House would strongly resist any attempt of this kind to overwhelm the Bill. They had eliminated the prospective value from the Bill altogether, and they had given the landlord power to resume where the land would be useful for building, mining, or other purpose of an industrial character, so that there was no reason in settling the rent to take into consideration the element of prospective value. It was shut out. They had only to deal with the agricultural conditions, and these were such as any expert valuer could settle for himself and decide in a few hours. If instead of that they had arbitration, which meant litigation, though without lawyers, undoubtedly they would be making the Bill impracticable, and they would be offering to the peasantry of England a boon which they did not intend them to get.

MR. CAVE said the hon. and learned Gentleman had exaggerated the case. Some of these Amendments had been described by the First Commissioner of Works as wrecking Amendments. He had looked right through the Bill for some kind of justification for the language which they had heard, with a great deal of astonishment, and, he must say, with some resentment on that side of the House. Up till now he had not found a single Amendment which, by the greatest stretch of imagination, could bear a description of that kind. This Amendment dealt simply with the question whether the rent was to be dealt with by arbitration or valuation. The difference between the two was this—the arbitrator heard both sides and the valuer did not. The arbitrator acted on the facts as given in evidence; the valuer picked up information where he liked, hearing one side in the absence of the other, and if he chose hearing one side and not hearing the other. If the valuer made a mistake he could not be pulled up; if the arbitrator made a mistake he could be. When land was to be taken arbitration was right; but when a rent was to be fixed and compensation was to be paid, then for some occult reason arbitration was wrong and valuation was the only thing. It was not quite accurate to suggest that if they had arbitration it would be a very expensive procedure. It was a very expensive thing with railway companies, no doubt. But in this case there was simply a single arbitrator provided for; he had not to hear expert witnesses nor counsel; he had to simply deal with the facts put before him, and it was really a great exaggeration to describe that procedure as expensive; it was a simple procedure, and he could not understand why the Government should accept arbitration for one purpose and repudiate it for another. He hoped that the matter would be considered, and that they would have for both purposes, namely, the purchase of land and the hiring of land, a tribunal which both parties could accept.

MR. MASTERMAN said he had been present throughout the whole of the discussion of these Amendments, which was more than the hon. Member opposite could say. Anyone who had considered the Amendments apart from technicalities, and had grasped the inner meaning of some of them, could not honestly say that what he had stated at the beginning of the discussion was exaggerated language. Every one of these Amendments had been devised, he thought he might say, for the purpose of serving the interests of one particular class against another class.

MR. CAVE said he entirely disagreed with the hon. Member; besides when he said exaggerated language had been used he was not referring to the hon. Member but to the right hon. Gentleman.

*MR. SPEAKER: This is not an opportunity for discussing all the Amendments. There are only a few more Amendments left, and the hon. Gentleman must confine himself to the Amendment before the House.

MR. MASTERMAN said the operation of the Amendment was to bar the various avenues by which small holders could be got on the land. It would make compulsory hiring as difficult as or rather more difficult than compulsory purchase. That was really the object of the Amendment, Thich ought to be rejected.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square) said the proposal of the Government was that the valuer or arbitrator should be appointed by the Board of Agriculture, and they withdrew from the parties the right to appoint a local arbitrator who was satisfactory to both parties. The only reason given for adopting this course was that they thought the Board of Agriculture would be more likely to appoint someone who would make the scheme work and value the land lower than a local valuer. The hon. Member opposite was under a delusion in imagining that under the Lords Amendment it would be necessary to have expert witnesses or any other proceedings than those which the Board of Agriculture considered proper. The situation was that they were proposing to take away the right of the parties to appoint a local arbitrator, and they placed the matter entirely in the hands of the Board of Agriculture. In the next place they withdrew the valuation proceedings from the light of publicity, and from all control by those who had a right to see fair play. The Amendment of the Lords in this case was quite appropriate, because there was ample provision in the Bill already for preventing any abuse of this power.

MR. WALTERS (Sheffield, Brightside) said that when a landlord was fixing a fresh scale of rents, and his tenants did not see eye to eye with him, they did not set up a court of arbitration or call witnesses. What they did was to call in a valuer who fixed a fair rent. They did not always choose a local valuer, because it was often better to fetch one from a distance. As for the difficulty of getting practical agriculturists to come from a distance to fix a fair value, hon. Members must know that that was a thing which was happening every day. He would like to point out one very obvious reason why a local valuer should not be appointed by agreement between the county council and the landlord. Very often the local valuer had to earn his living in that particular district, and he was constantly called upon to do work for the landlord and the large tenant farmer, and when he was asked to value land, although he might be perfectly honest, he was conscious all the time of his own personal interest in the district. He thought it was only common sense to say that the Board of Agriculture should appoint an outside experienced valuer who would be entirely free from bias and local prejudice.

LORD R. CECIL thought the speeches of the hon. Member opposite and the Solicitor-General had been delivered under a misapprehension. Legal proceedings were costly if the subject in dispute was valuable. The method of procedure was generally settled in the Court. If the parties had a great interest at stake, whatever proceedings they devised they would fight as hard as they could. If the subject involved was not of much value generally speaking the procedings would not be costly. He was convinced that the Government were attaching a great deal too much importance to the question whether this proceedure should be valuation or arbitration. Arbitration possessed certain obvious advantages, because its procedure was well known to English jurisprudence and was perfectly satisfactory. He was amazed at the Government rejecting the proposal that the parties should be allowed to select their own tribunal. What the proposition came to was that they were not to have a valuer with any knowledge of the land in the district. It was an obvious advantage to have someone really familiar with the circumstances of the case.

MR. CHAPLIN said the Solicitor-General argued this question on the amount of rent to be paid, ignoring all the other matters which were dealt with in this section. He wanted to know on what authority the Solicitor-General stated that it would affect only a few acres of land. In numberless cases, if the Bill met with the success which it was hoped it would have, the county councils would take considerable tracts of land. There was nothing more likely than that a council might take 500 acres at a time. That was what the hon. and learned Gentleman called having an arbitration for a few acres at a time. There might be only a few acres in question when the land came to be let to a smaller tenant, but he maintained that there would probably be a considerable number of cases in which a large acreage would be involved. His hon. and learned friend behind him had pointed out the difference between a valuation on the one hand and an arbitration on the other. It seemed to him that when they had to deal with the large transactions which were certain to arise under this Bill they ought not to be deprived of arbitration, under which both sides of the case could be heard. There was a special section in the schedule which provided for the cost.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 137; Noes, 39. (Division List No. 466.)

AYES.

Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Alden, Percy
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Beauchamp, E.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Bowerman, C. W.
Branch, James
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Rt. Hon. Winston S.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, Sir William Randal
Crooks, William
Dobson, Thomas W.
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gurdon, Rt Hn. Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)

Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lambert, George
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Levy, Sir Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montgomery, H. G.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Price, C.E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F. (Wolverhampt'n)
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seely, Colonel
Sherwell, Arthur James
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Snowden, P.
Stanley, Albert (Staffs., N. W.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Thompson, J.W.H. (Somerset, E.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A.J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bowles, G. Stewart
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm'gham)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gretton, John
Guinness, Walter Edward
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Harrison-Broadley, H. G.
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Ronaldshay, Earl of
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W.H. (Lancashire)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Cave and Mr. Hicks Beach

Lords Amendment—

"In page 25, line 18, to leave out the word 'value,' and insert the word 'arbitration,'"

Read a second time and disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In line 21, to leave out the words 'rating or taxation,' and insert the words 'income-tax the terms and conditions of the hiring,'"

Read a second time.

Mr. HARCOURT said he proposed to amend the Amendment by leaving out "terms and conditions of hiring," and deleting the words "income-tax," and adding to it "or rates." He did that because rating was a very fair element in calculating rental, and he thought for the present at all events it was better to have both assessments.

Amendment to the Lords Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the words 'income tax the terms and conditions of hiring,' and insert the words 'or rates.'"—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 25 lines 33 to 40 to leave out paragraph 6."

Read a second time.

Mr. HARCOURT said the object of this Amendment did not appear to be quite clear. He therefore proposed to disagree with this Amendment and in place of it to leave out 'require' in line 37 and insert 'reasonably require for purposes of valuation.'" He moved.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Words so restored to the Bill, amended, in page 25, line 37, by leaving out the word "require," and inserting the words "reasonably require for the purposes of valuation," — (*Mr. Harcourt*) — instead thereof.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 25, line 43, after the word 'shall' to insert the words 'in default of agreement.'"

The next Amendment, agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 26, to leave out line 9."

The next Amendment, read a second time, and disagreed to.

Remaining Lords' Amendments agreed to.

Committee appointed to draw up reasons to be assigned to the Lords for disagreeing to certain of the Amendments made by the Lords to the Bill.

Committee nominated of, Mr. Corrie Grant, Mr. Harcourt, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Solicitor-General and Sir Edward Strachey.

Three to be the quorum.

To withdraw immediately. — (*Mr. Harcourt.*)

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith.—(*Mr. Burns.*)

Lords Amendments considered—

Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 3, line 17, agreed to.

Lords Amendment, in page 3, line 17, after "inspector," insert "(3) The Secretary of State may order that a local inquiry be held in regard to the exercise of any powers conferred on him under this Act," the next Amendment, read a second time, amended, and agreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 19, line 17, agreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 20, line 4, inclusive, postponed.

Mr. Harcourt.

Subsequent Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 43, line 14, to insert a new clause (Crown rights), inclusive, agreed to.

Postponed Lords Amendments amended, and agreed to.

Remaining Lords Amendments amended, and agreed to.

EVICTED TENANTS (IRELAND) BILL.

Reasons for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments reported, and agreed to.

To be communicated to the Lords.—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS BILL.

Reasons for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments reported, and agreed to.

To be communicated to the Lords.—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to, Notification of Births Bill; Irish Land (No. 2) Bill; Employers' Liability (Insurance Companies) Bill, with an Amendment; Patents and Designs Bill; Patents and Designs (Consolidation) Bill; Cabs and Stage Carriages ([illegible] of the case could [illegible] in Amendments.

PATENTS AND DESIGNS BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 334].

PATENTS AND DESIGNS (CONSOLIDATION) BILL.

Lords' Amendments to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 335.]

CABS AND STAGE CARRIAGES (LONDON) BILL.

Lords' Amendments to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 337].

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 26th day of July last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at two minutes before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 27th August, 1907.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIES: ANNUAL.

No. 535. Malta (Report for 1906–1907).

NAVY (HEALTH).

Statistical Report of the health of the Navy, for the year 1906.

INDIA (STATISTICAL ABSTRACT).

Statistical Abstract relating to British India from 1896–1897 to 1905–1906. Forty-first number.

TREATY SERIES, NO. 26. (1906).

Protocol for the Accession of Non-signatory Powers to the Convention of 29th July, 1899, for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, 14th July, 1907.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3909. Portugal (Lourenço Marques).

No. 3910. China (Shari).

No. 3911. Turkey (Trebizond).

[illegible] (South Italy (Sup- [illegible]

No. 3913. China (Foochow).

No. 3914. Morocco.

No. 3915. Russia (Riga).

No. 3916. China (Tientsin).

POST OFFICE.

Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Bulgaria for the exchange of Postal and Telegraph Money Orders.

MERCANTILE MARINE (BOY SEAMEN).

Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the Supply and Training of Boy Seamen for the Mercantile Marine:—I. Report; II. Minutes of Evidence and Appendix.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1888.

Orders under Section 57 of the Act, as confirmed by the Local Government Board, of the following county councils:

Carnarvon. For amending Confirmation Order setting up a Joint Committee under the Burial Acts, 1853 to 1900.

Somerset. For uniting parish of Chilton Common with parish of Chilton Trinity to form the parish of Chilton Trinity.

MOTOR CAR ACTS, 1896 AND 1903.

Regulation as to restriction of the driving of motor cars on certain roads or parts of roads situate within urban district of Ware, made by the Local Government Board under Section 9 (1) of the Act of 1903.

Regulation as to the registration of motor cars made by the Local Government Board under Section 6 of the Act of 1896 and Section 7 of the Act of 1903:—London County—For assigning a fourth index mark to the London County Council.

Regulation as to the registration of motor cars made by the Local Government Board under Section 6 of the Act of 1896 and Section 7 of the Act of 1903:—Smethwick (County Borough)—For assigning index mark to county borough.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890 (COUNTY OF LONDON).

Statement of modification permitted by the Local Government Board to be made in the London (Providence Place, Poplar) Improvement Scheme, 1901.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT.

Additional and amending General Orders for the regulation of proceedings under and in pursuance of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie on the Table.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

IRISH LAND (NO. 2) BILL.

PUBLIC HEALTH (REGULATIONS AS TO FOOD) BILL.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS BILL.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

CABS AND STAGE CARRIAGES (LONDON) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with certain of the Amendments agreed to: one Amendment disagreed to, with a reason.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (TONNAGE DEDUCTION FOR PROPELLING POWER) BILL.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

PATENTS AND DESIGNS BILL.

PATENTS AND DESIGNS (CONSOLIDATION) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

HOME WORK; PUBLICATIONS.

Reports, etc., of the Select Committees of the House of Commons communicated (pursuant to message of Thursday last), and to be printed. (No. 218.)

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Order made yesterday for Commons Amendments to Lords Amendments to be printed, discharged.

SCOTTISH SMALL HOLDINGS.

LORD LOVAT: My Lords, in accordance with private notice, I rise to ask the Lord President of the Council which of the following statements most accurately describes the policy and intentions of the Government in regard to Scottish small holdings—the Lord President's statement in reply to Lord St. Aldwyn, the Scottish crofter Members' letter, the Prime Minister's statement, the letter of Mr. Weir and Mr. Morton to *The Times*, or the letter of the Master of Elibank of 24th August. I hope that in putting this Question I shall not be thought to be in any way doubting the honesty or straightforwardness of the Answer which was given to the noble Viscount by the Lord President. The Question was asked across the floor of the House and the answer given on the spur of the moment, possibly at the very time the letter from the crofter Members was being sent in to the Prime Minister. The noble Earl the Lord President stated, in his reply, that the crofter Members supported the policy of His Majesty's Government in withdrawing the Bill. We then had the crofter Members' letter, signed by Mr. Harmsworth, Member for Caithness; by Mr. Morton, Member for Sutherland; by Mr. Weir, Member for Ross and Cromarty; and by Mr. Ainsworth, Member for Argyll. In this letter these gentlemen stated that it was their belief that the open door should be taken advantage of, and they definitely supported the view that the Government were to proceed with the crofter legislation. On the subject of the Government's tactics with regard to the House of Lords no opinion was expressed. Next came the statement of the Prime Minister, who, although he had received the letter of the crofter Members, declared that those Members agreed with the policy and with the tactics of His Majesty's Government. I would venture to press this point. The tactics of His Majesty's Government must necessarily refer to their tactics as regards the House of Lords. These crofter Members had only the day before sent the Prime Minister a letter in which they said they approved of going on with this Bill, and it would have been, of course, impossible for them to have made the *volte face* suggested. Then we had the letter of the two crofter Members Mr. Weir and Mr. Morton, absolutely standing fast to what they had said; and, finally, as the last act in this drama, we had the letter of the Master of Elibank, in which he stated that the Prime Minister and Lord Crewe had considerable ground for feeling that the policy of the Government had met with the approval of the bulk of the northern Members. The introduction by the Master of Elibank of the term "northern Members" and what he calls "non-Highland Members" constitute the drawing of a red herring across the trail with the object of leading people in the south of Britain to believe that the crofter Members have either gone back upon their letters of last week or that there are other crofter Members who believe in the policy of the Government. I submit that the crofter Members are opposed to the policy of His Majesty's Government, and I beg to ask my Question in view of the great firework display by Members of the Government which took place in the country on Saturday last on the question of the House of Lords.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, my noble friend has made full use of the powers which your Lordships freely grant to those who desire to raise a subject which is not on the Paper, and he will, I am sure, excuse me if I reply somewhat briefly to his Question. The form of the Question is rather singular, because the noble Lord asks me which of several statements most accurately describes the attitute of the crofter Members. I should have thought that that question should be addressed, not to me, but to the Members themselves. But, so far as I can, although I must say the question does not seem to me to be one of great public interest, I will endeavour to reply to it. In my judgment all the five statements to which the noble Lord has alluded represent with perfect accuracy the general situation. The first of those in point of time was the letter which it is said was addressed to the Prime Minister by various Members of Parliament. I have personally no knowledge of that letter. I do not know whether the noble Lord has seen it. It was mentioned in one of those columns of the newspapers devoted to political gossip, of which there are now so many; but I take it that it was a private communication, and I confess I know nothing whatever about it. But if such a letter was written—and I dare say it was—it seems to me very natural that it should have expressed, on behalf of those qualified to speak for those counties, the desire that it might be possible to pass the measure so far as it included the provisions relating to the crofting counties. We all agree with that as an abstract proposition. We would all, I presume, have certainly desired to see those provisions become law; but it is important to point out that when noble Lords opposite made what, I suppose, was a kind of offer to pass those particular provisions, their offer was qualified by the statement that those provisions would be passed with some alterations; and long and bitter experience in this House has taught me what the effect upon a measure is of the slight alterations which noble Lords opposite are accustomed to make in Bills which we bring in. Therefore, I think it is important to observe that whatever may have been the views of the Members for the crofting counties as regards the bringing in of this measure, it by no means follows that what would have been done in your Lordships' House would have satisfied them. The next in point of time was the reply which I gave to the noble Viscount, Lord St. Aldwyn, who asked me—

> "Did the Members for the crofting counties who waited on the Prime Minister complain that the Bill had been eviscerated, or did they ask him to proceed with the crofter clauses of the Bill?"

To that I replied—

> "I believe, so far as my information goes—it is not very extensive, though I hope, so far as it does go, it is accurate—that those who are most qualified to speak for the northern parts of Scotland are quite willing to combine with those who represent other counties of Scotland in supporting the action of His Majesty's Government."

I still believe that to be a perfectly accurate statement, and it is not in any degree incompatible with anything that may have been written by these gentlemen to the Prime Minister. Then came the Prime Minister's statement, and my right hon. friend was good enough to confirm what I said on that occasion. Then two gentlemen—Mr. Weir and Mr. Morton—wrote to *The Times* stating their views. There, again, there is nothing incompatible with what I said in this House. On the contrary, their statement, if it does not actually bear out, is, at any rate, not incompatible with, the particular words which I used in describing the opinions of Members for the North of Scotland on this subject. Lastly, there is the letter of the Master of Elibank, which speaks for itself, and which, so far as I am aware, is perfectly accurate. In fact, if I may say so, it appears to me that the various statements made by the five people, or more, none of whom had compared notes on the subject, are quite remarkably compatible and accurate for a discussion of this kind. I hope I have given the noble Lord the information he requires.

EVICTED TENANTS (IRELAND) BILL.

The further Amendments made by the Commons to Lords Amendments, and Commons reasons for disagreeing to certain Amendments last made by the Lords, considered (according to Order).

* THE EARL OF CREWE: The Commons disagree to the Lords Amendment, in page 1, line 8, to leave out the words "of the land," for the reason that the words are unnecessary. I beg to move that this House do not insist on its Amendment.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

* THE EARL OF CREWE: The Commons disagree to the Lords Amendments, in page 1, line 9, and to the Amendments in page 3, line 3, line 11, and lines 17 and 18. Your Lordships will remember that you inserted an Amendment in page 1, line 9, providing that the Estates Commissioners should pay to a landlord "compensation for the loss which would be sustained by him by being deprived of his land." The original Bill provided that the Commissioners should pay the "value." The reason given by the Commons for disagreeing to the Lords Amendment is that, having regard to other provisions of the Act, compensation ought not to be paid to owners in accordance with the principles of the Lands Clauses Acts. I beg to move, first, that the House do not insist on its Amendment in page 1, line 9.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

* VISCOUNT MIDLETON thought they could hardly pass from this Amendment without registering their regret and disappointment at the action of the Government. No Bill ever came before the House which appeared to have received less consideration with respect to some provisions. This Amendment was no exception to the rule. There had been practically no defence from those in charge of the Bill of the clause as it came up from the Commons. The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack was the first to recognise that the words as they came from the Commons giving the settlement of value to the Commissioners who took the land without appeal left the matter in a position for which there was no precedent in the English law. On this question of what the landlord was to get, all their Lordships asked was exactly that which would be obtained in England and Scotland; that was to say, compensation for the loss of his land. The word "value" did not include what would have been included in the word "compensation" — consideration for severance from other property, or damage done by its being compulsorily taken. There was nothing to show whether it meant value to the landlord or to the purchasing tenant. He deeply regretted that His Majesty's Government had chosen to refuse guiding words for this very important Commission. They were to-day at the last stage of the Bill. The noble Earl had endeavoured to meet them as far as possible. On some considerable points he had recognised the weight of the arguments addressed to their Lordships. They were now face to face with the difficulty of insisting on that which they believed to be absolutely right and just, or leaving themselves in the hands of the Commissioners in a matter in which they were denied what was given in the English Bill. The word "compensation" was good in the case of the English landlord and tenant, but not apparently for the Irish landlord in like conditions. He asked the Government to indicate the purpose of insisting on the word "value." The words as they stood seemed to leave the Commissioners free to put a sinister interpretation on the word "value" and to decide the price according to what a tenant could make out of the land, ignoring the value which the landlord might have realised. He did not propose to ask their Lordships to insist upon the Amendment; but if he did so he believed

he would have the support not only of all interested in Irish land, but of those who had shown by their action on the English Bill that they thought that this word "compensation" should be inserted in the Irish measure. He hoped that the noble Earl would make clear that the intentions of the Government were what he believed them to be, that the word should be interpreted in accordance with the principles of justice.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I am glad that the noble Viscount does not ask the House to press the insertion of the word "compensation." I think I have explained before that we have throughout preferred the word "value" to "compensation," because we do not desire to apply the principles of purchase under the Lands Clauses Act to the special purchases which are to take place for the purpose of this Bill. The noble Viscount altogether omitted to mention what we have done as regards Clause 6, and when you are comparing Ireland with England it is important to remember that there is in this Bill what certainly does not exist in any other Act—an absolute prohibition to take land when it can be shown to interfere with the amenities or value of the adjoining property. I think this ought to have been mentioned when the noble Viscount was comparing the treatment of the two countries. I should have thought that landlords would receive complete protection under the very wide provisions which we have placed at the end of Clause 6. We have always said that we desire the landlord to receive a fair price for his land, and when the noble Viscount asks me if it is to be the value to the vendor, I do not quite understand what he means. Does he mean that if a man can show that he has been receiving for a number of years a particular rent, under no matter what circumstances, for a certain piece of land, he is entitled to assume that this is the permanent and absolute value of the land, and that therefore he ought to be given a sum which for ever and ever will bring him in interest equal to that particular rent? That is a contention to which I could not subscribe, either in connection with Ireland or anywhere else. But it is undoubtedly true that if a landlord is able to show that a certain rent has been paid for a number of years, and there is reason to suppose that it could be paid for a number of years to come, it must be almost a paramount element in arriving at what we describe as the value of the land. It is certainly not my right hon. friend's intention, or that of any member of the Government, that the landlord should receive anything less than a perfectly fair price for his land.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The noble Earl complained that my noble friend Lord Midleton had said nothing, in the course of his observations, about the Amendment which His Majesty's Government have made in Clause 6. Let me say at once that I regard that Amendment as a very important one, and I am grateful to His Majesty's Government for having made it; but while that Amendment diminishes the area of the land which can be taken by the Estates Commissioners for the purposes of the Bill, it does not establish the right of the landlord to equitable treatment in respect of the land which can still be taken from him. I have never been able to understand the extraordinary reluctance of His Majesty's Ministers to face the word "compensation." I should have gone the length of saying that wherever the British language is spoken it would be admitted that when a Government takes from any individual by compulsion something which belongs to that individual, the person from whom that something is taken is entitled to compensation. Compensation is the only word which really describes what everybody would admit to be due to the sufferer in such a case. The word occurs throughout the English Bill, and we see no reason why it should not be put into this Bill also. There is one circumstance which we on this side of the House cannot lose sight of. We have had a terrible lesson as to the effect of the use of vague language in all these statutes relating to land in Ireland, and that is why we so strongly prefer a word having a certain amount of precision about it to the extremely vague expression "value." However, I very much prefer the word "value" to the words "fair market value," as they originally stood in the Bill. I feel that after what my noble friend has said it is not necessary to pursue this controversy further. I only desire to make it quite clear that we give up the word "compensation" not because we believe it to be unnecessary, but under duress from His Majesty's Ministers.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I think I ought to make it clear that the value, as stated in Clause 1, does not include the bonus. The value is paid for the land, and after that it is declared an estate, and upon that declaration it becomes entitled to receive the bonus; so that the owner gets the value of the land plus the bonus.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: The first of the Lords Amendments to which the Commons disagree is in page 1, line 9; but that Amendment does not appear on either of the prints before me.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: The Lords Amendment on page 1, line 9, was to leave out the words "fair market value thereof" and to insert the words "compensation for the loss which would be sustained by the owner by being deprived thereof."

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: These Papers are in most distressing confusion. Might it not be desirable that the clause as it will run should be read to the House by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, or by the Lord President?

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: If the House does not insist upon its Amendment, the clause will run that the Estates Commissioners shall pay to the landlord "the fair market value."

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: No.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: If your Lordships do not insist on your Amendment the words "fair market value" will remain; but it will be open to the House, after agreeing not to insist on the Amendment, to leave out the words "fair market."

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That the word 'value' stand in place of the words 'compensation for the loss which will be sustained by the owner by being deprived thereof.'"—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I now move that your Lordships do not insist on your Amendments in page 3, line 3, line 11, and lines 17 and 18. This Motion is consequential upon the one to which you have just agreed.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendments."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I am sorry, my Lords, that we are experiencing such difficulty in dealing with these various Papers. I do not know whether it will be any consolation when I say that I am told similar difficulties confronted hon. Gentlemen in another place when they were dealing with this matter yesterday. The next Amendment is that which we have been accustomed to speak of as Lord Robertson's Amendment—that is to say, the Amendment inserted for the protection of the planters. Although the Commons disagree with the form of Lord Robertson's Amendment, they concede the principle, and I need not call the attention of the House to the very great importance of this particular concession. The words which we propose to insert at the end of Clause 1, Subsection (3), are—

> "Provided that no tenanted land shall be acquired compulsorily which is in the possession or occupation of a *bona fide* tenant using or cultivating the same as an ordinary farmer in accordance with proper methods of husbandry."

My right hon. friend accepted this Amendment with great reluctance, because he thought—and I confess I entirely agree with him—that the provisions as regards new tenants are made practically nugatory by it. I do not desire to say anything more on the subject. We agree to this proviso, and therefore I hope your Lordships will give us due credit for having endeavoured to meet what, I think, were very unreasonable fears on this particular matter.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

LORD ASHBOURNE asked the noble Earl in charge of the Bill what had been done to safeguard those who had not actually bought their holdings, but had agreed to do so.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of Clause 1 will now read as follows—

"(3) Provided that no tenanted land shall be acquired compulsorily which is in the possession or occupation of a *bona fide* tenant using or cultivating the same as an ordinary farmer in accordance with proper methods of husbandry.

"(4) For the purpose of this enactment a person shall be deemed to be a tenant notwithstanding that he may have agreed to purchase his holding, if the agreement was entered into after the first day of May, 1907, and if the holding has not become vested in him as a purchaser under the Land Purchase Acts.

'(5) No land shall be acquired compulsorily which is subject to an annuity for the repayment of an advance under the Land Purchase Acts."

The noble Lord will see that any man who has entered into an agreement prior to the first day of May is safeguarded.

LORD ASHBOURNE said these were rather curious cross references, but if the noble Earl was satisfied that these men were protected he was content.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: What is the Motion?

*THE EARL OF CREWE: The Motion is that your Lordships do not insist upon your Amendments in page 2, line 15 and lines 16 to 21, and that you agree to the insertion of the new Subsection (3) which I have read and which is proposed by the House of Commons.

LORD ASHBOURNE said he could not find in the White Paper any trace of the new Subsections (4) and (5) which the Lord President had read.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: There is a doubt whether the words already appear in the print, and I think the safest plan will be to move them in now.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I will first put the Motion that this House do not insist on their Amendments in page 2, line 15, and lines 16 to 21.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I now put the Motion that the Commons proviso at the end of Clause 1, Subsection (3), be agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I now move the insertion of the two further subsections—Subsections (4) and (5)—which I read to the House a moment ago.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: The Commons agree to the Lords Amendment to the Commons Amendment in page 3, line 23, but propose to leave out the words "amount of compensation," and to insert the words "the purchase money." This is consequential.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: The Commons disagree to the Lords Amendment in page 3, line 30, and insist on their Amendment in page 3, line 34, but propose to amend the words so restored by leaving out in line 8 the words "hear in the prescribed manner" and inserting the words "with the assistance of two specially qualified lay assessors nominated by him for the purpose hear," and by inserting in line 10, after "1881," the words "other than the power to direct a valuer to report." Noble Lords will remember that our view was that an appeal on value should go to the Judicial Commissioner, but we offered, if it would make that arrangement more agreeable to noble Lords, to add that the Judicial Commissioner should have the assistance of two qualified lay assessors, who should sit with him rather in the manner in which Trinity House experts sit in the the Admiralty Court. Whether that is an agreeable suggestion to noble Lords opposite I really do not know. We do not set any particular store by it, and should be willing, with perfect confidence to leave this appeal to Mr. Justice Wylie. It is for noble Lords opposite to say whether or not they wish that Mr. Justice Wylie should sit with these two assessors.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

LORD ATKINSON said he had been asked to disentangle these Amendments. The noble Lord then proceeded to explain the nature of Amendments which he intended to move to the provision that appeals under the Act should lie to the Judicial Commissioner sitting with two lay assessors. He objected to the assessors, for those who had experience in Ireland of a Judge sitting with assessors were convinced that the system was utterly unsatisfactory. Mr. Justice Wylie was nominated Judicial Commissioner because of the confidence reposed in him by both sides. But there was a power in the Lord Chancellor, under the Purchase Act of 1903, to transfer the duties of the Estates Commissioners to other Judges; and he therefore proposed to move that the power and duties of the Judicial Commissioner should not be exercised or performed by any other Judge appointed as Judicial Commissioner, save during the absence through illness of the Judicial Commissioner. He also proposed to provide an alternative appeal—to confine the appeal to the Judicial Commissioner to questions of value and give an appeal on questions of law and fact to a Judge of Assize of the King's Bench Division. The Judicial Commissioner would have power to appoint a valuer. He intended to propose that that valuer should be produced as a witness and examined as to the reasons for the conclusions he had come to if either of the parties so desired. Throughout the working of the different systems in Ireland it had been considered most objectionable that when a valuer was employed he should not be produced at the witness table, so as to give his reasons for the conclusion he had formed. The system that had hitherto obtained was like that of giving evidence behind the backs of the parties and in the dark. He could not conceive what valid objection there could be to allowing the valuer, after he had reported to the Judge, to be examined and cross-examined as to the basis on which he had gone and the principles on which he had acted.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: The noble and learned Lord's Amendments are not on the Paper and I desire to make a suggestion to secure the orderly putting of these Questions. The first point is: Will your Lordships insist on your Amendment in page 3, line 30? It has been moved that the House do not insist on that Amendment. The next point is that the Commons insist on their Amendment in page 3, line 34, but propose to amend the words so restored. If the House accepts as a basis the Commons Amendment in page 3, line 34, I would suggest that the other Amendments should be taken as successive to that Amendment, and should be put in their order one after another separately.

LORD ASHBOURNE said there was no desire now to have the assessors, and therefore the words "with the assistance of two specially qualified lay assessors nominated by him for the purpose" would go out.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: That is so. The noble and learned Lord, Lord Atkinson, has stated this rather complicated situation with a clearness which I am sure must have appealed to all your Lordships. I would say, first, that I am very glad to find that, even though unwillingly, the noble and learned Lord and his friends have come round to our suggestion that Mr. Justice Wylie should be given the appeal on questions of value. The two assessors, as I have already stated, were only suggested to meet a supposed desire of noble Lords opposite, and if they drop out it will cause us no special sorrow. The general effect of the Amendments which the noble and learned Lord has intimated his intention of moving, is that the appeals on value will go to Mr. Justice Wylie, assisted by a valuer under the Act of 1881, if he so chooses. I pass by, for the moment, the question of the appeals under Clause 6, and come to the important point mentioned by the noble and learned Lord—namely, his desire that this valuer should be subjected to cross-examination. I do trust noble Lords opposite will not insist on that change. I do not complain that these Amendments are proposed without notice, because all the proceedings at this stage are necessarily without much notice; but it is, so far as I know, a purely unprecedented thing that a valuer called in to assist a Judge in this way should be subjected to cross-examination by the parties or by those who legally represent them. There are two very distinct objections to this course being taken. In the first place, I should have thought the possibility of being put into the witness-box, or, as we say in Ireland, on the table, and cross-examined, would prevent a valuer of real standing from undertaking this work at all; and that is a consideration which I should like your Lordships to bear in mind. I am perfectly certain that the kind of man you would get to do the work would necessarily be of somewhat inferior character to the valuer who would otherwise be employed. I do not want to repeat what I said on this matter of valuation at an earlier stage of the Bill, but I would ask your Lordships, from your own knowledge of land and kindred matters, How is a valuation of that kind susceptible of cross-examination? A great many of your Lordships know land well, and are good judges of it. If you were driving about the estate of some friend you would be able to judge pretty accurately what the land you were passing through was paying per acre, and if you knew the average rent paid in the neighbourhood you would be able to arrive at a fairly correct conclusion in each case. But if you were put into the witness-box and asked to say how you had arrived at the opinion that a particular farm would average 25s. or 30s. an acre, I am inclined to think you would be very much puzzled to describe the mental process at which you reached that conclusion. I do not think that the processes of valuation and of cross-examination are really compatible things; and under these circumstances I hope noble Lords opposite will not press that Amendment.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Let me say at the outset, with regard to the proposal made by His Majesty's Government that the Judicial Commissioner should be assisted by two independent assessors, that the noble Earl is quite right in stating that this proposal was put forward by His Majesty's Government in the belief that it might have the effect of reconciling noble Lords who are interested in this matter to the Judicial Commissioner as a Court of Appeal. I confess that to me it seemed that there was a good deal to be said for associating the Judicial Commissioner with two carefully chosen assessors, but the idea has not found favour with noble Lords qualified to speak, and therefore we certainly should be glad if that proposal were allowed to drop out. With regard to the attitude of those who sit round me on the question of appeal, I hope it will be understood that we have never desired to put into this Bill any provisions which might have the effect of rendering proceedings under it needlessly dilatory or expensive. We gave evidence of our good faith in that matter in an Amendment proposed by Lord Atkinson, which took away altogether from appeal what has been generally spoken of as appeal on necessity. But we did very earnestly desire that there should be an appeal on the question of price and other questions arising under the Bill to some tribunal external to the Land Commission. We have now, however, been told, finally and conclusively, that we are not to have such an appeal, and I do not desire to press that point further. But I am glad the noble Earl has no objection to allowing an appeal on questions arising under Clause 6, not to the Judicial Commissioner, but to a Judge. That is the proposal embodied in one of Lord Atkinson's Amendments, which I understand is not unacceptable to the Government. Under that

Amendment as I understand it, it will be possible for a planter to appeal upon the question whether he does or does not come within the description contained in the concluding part of the clause moved by my noble and learned friend Lord Robertson. There remain the two suggestions made by Lord Atkinson—one that the cases should be heard by the Judicial Commissioner himself and not by a substitute; the other that the valuer should be subject to cross-examination. Neither of those proposals has been yet before the House, and I say frankly that I do not see how we can press them if the Government altogether refuse to entertain them. The noble Earl has told us distinctly that the Government cannot accept the second proposal. But I hope that the first may be accepted, since we on this side have been greatly reconciled to the proposal of the Government on account of the confidence inspired by Mr. Justice Wylie's high character and antecedents.

*The Earl of CREWE: I am sorry I omitted to mention this point. We have no objection whatever to accepting the Amendment with regard to Mr. Justice Wylie. It really only conveys what we always meant should be the manner in which appeals should be carried out. As the noble Marquess has mentioned it, I ought to say something now about the later subsection—the appeals under Clause 6. We do, I confess with very considerable reluctance, place the appeals under Clause 6 on a different footing from appeals on value. Some people, I believe, think that so far as the operations of this Bill are concerned, Clause 2, as amended, destroys any possibility of dealing with tenanted land; that Clause 6, as now amended, will destroy the possibility of dealing with untenanted land, and that the operations of the Bill are not, therefore, likely to be wide. One objection is that appeals of this kind are likely to mean expense; and if it were the case that the Treasury was to have to pay for every appeal which might be made at the instance of every solicitor concerned with these transactions, we should not have been able to accept this appeal. But noble Lords will notice that in this particular instance, the Judge may make such order as to costs as he may think fit. If people make frivolous appeals, they ought very properly to be saddled with the costs.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: I will now put the Motion that this House do not insist upon its Amendment in page 3, line 30.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Commons Amendment thereupon amended (on the Motion of Lord Atkinson) in such a manner as to provide that the power and duties of the Judicial Commissioner should not be exercised by any other Judge, except during the absence through illness of the Judicial Commissioner; that any person aggrieved by any determination of the Estates Commissioners of a question arising under the provision of the Act imposing restrictions on the acquisition of land might appeal locally or to a Judge of the King's Bench Division of the High Court, placed on the rota for the purposes of the Act; and that the Judge should have the power of determining all questions of law and fact arising on any such appeal other than the question referred to the Judicial Commissioner.

Drafting and consequential Amendments agreed to.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

*The Earl of CREWE: The Commons insist on their Amendment in page 4, line 4—

> "Unless the new tenant has applied for compensation as hereinafter provided."

This Amendment was inserted by the Commons when the Bill first went down, but it was disagreed to by your Lordships, and the Commons have re-inserted it, because in their opinion the words are necessary.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

Lord ASHBOURNE said he had no doubt he would agree to the Commons Amendment, but he would like to have a glimmering of what it meant.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I take it that it simply means that unless the new tenant has applied for compensation in money, the Estates Commissioners will place him in possession of a parcel of land somewhere else. It is, in essence, a drafting Amendment.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Surely this is a very dangerous way to deal with Amendments. I am unable to find the slightest trace of the Amendment on the Paper, and I do not know what it is about.

LORD ASHBOURNE said he had moved an Amendment on this question at a previous stage, but could not follow what was being done now. But if the noble Earl in charge of the Bill understood it, he was satisfied.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: The Commons disagree to the Amendment in page 5, line 5, and insist on their Amendments in page 5, line 6, and lines 7 and 8. They disagree because your Lordships' Amendments are inconsistent with the Commons proposal respecting the Appeal tribunal.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons Amendments."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: We now come to Clause 6. The Commons disagree to the Lords Amendment in page 5, line 26, and to the Amendment in page 5, line 32, for the reason that it is inexpedient to restrict the acquisition of land in the manner proposed. In arriving at that conclusion hon. Gentlemen in another place were very much guided by the wide words as to damage to land which we inserted at the end of this clause. I think those words practically safeguard landowners, and I hope, therefore, your Lordships will not insist on your Amendments. We always objected to the words "which for any reason possesses exceptional or accommodation value to the owner." I hope that as we have reached very near argeement on other matters, your Lordships will not press this Amendment now. I cannot conceive that there is any prospect of building land being taken, and under these circumstances I hope the Amendment will not be pressed. I may remind noble Lords that the appeal which is now given to the High Court upon all these questions does safeguard noble Lords and landowners generally to a very great extent.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendments."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I always thought there was a strong case for including a reference to building land amongst those classes of land which would not be compulsorily acquired, and we were under the impression that His Majesty's Government had accepted this. But I think the noble Earl is perfectly justified in urging that this clause, if weakened by the omission of the reference to building land, will be considerably strengthened by the Government's Amendment at the end of the clause. I would, therefore, suggest to my noble friends behind me that they should not press the Amendment.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: The Commons disagree to the Lords Amendment in page 6, line 39, for the reason that the words are unnecessary.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to..

*THE EARL OF CREWE: A consequential Amendment has been made by the Commons on page 5, line 34 to leave out from " of " to the end of line 36, and to insert the words "any other property of the owner so as not to diminish the value thereof." I ask your Lordships to agree to this Amendment.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: That, my Lords, concludes the consideration of these Amendments.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I do not know whether, before we entirely part with this Bill, it would be possible to have it looked through by a small Committee to see if the Amendments are correctly inserted. But for the guidance of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, I do not think we should have been able to have got through the Bill at all, and whether we have done so with absolute success he would be a bold man who would say.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: There is no doubt that, owing to the manner in which the different Papers come up to your Lordships, it is difficult to follow the precise effect of an Amendment; but, so far as I know, the Amendments have all been inserted in their proper places and in proper form, thanks, as the noble Marquess has said, to the way in which the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has conducted the business. At the same time, we gladly fall in with the noble Marquess's suggestion.

Committee appointed to prepare a Reason for the Lords disagreeing to the said Amendment, the Committee to meet forthwith.

Bill returned to the Commons.

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS BILL.

Order of the Day read for the consideration of Commons Amendments to Lords Amendments and Commons reasons for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments.

The Earl of Crewe.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (Earl CARRINGTON): My Lords, in moving that the Commons Amendments to this Bill be considered, and speaking, as I hope the House will believe, in no provocative spirit, but in all earnestness, I have to say that the Government could not, and will not take the responsibility of a Bill which would not work effectively. The efficiency of a Bill of this character depends upon its simplicity, and the simplicity of the procedure by which it is to be carried out; and so far as Amendments may tend to make that procedure complicated and costly or dilatory the Government feel bound to resist them, even at the serious risk of losing the Bill, which, of course, we should very much regret. It would, however, be better in the opinion of the Government to lose the Bill than to pass it into law knowing that it was illusory.

Moved, "That the Commons Amendments to the Lords Amendments and Commons reasons for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments be considered."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN, as one who had taken a considerable part in the consideration of this Bill in Committee, repudiated altogether the suggestions of the noble Lord that any Amendment their Lordships had inserted in the Bill had been inserted with the intention, or with any idea, that it would make procedure complicated or costly or dilatory. They had only tried their best to improve the machinery of the Bill. They did not believe any Amendments inserted in the Bill were open to such adjectives as he had quoted from the noble Earl's observations, and he entirely repudiated anything of the kind.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: Your Lordships passed an Amendment to leave out Subsection (2) of Clause 5. The Commons disagree to this Amendment, but propose to amend the Bill by inserting, after line 24 of page 2, the following subsection: "Any order made by the Board directing the Commissioners to carry a scheme into effect shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament as soon as may be after it is made." I move that the Lords Amendment be not insisted upon, and that the Amendment of the Commons be agreed to. This matter has been thoroughly threshed out in previous debates, and I do not know that I need detain your Lordships at any length on the subject. It was fully discussed last night in the Commons House of Parliament, and I think I may say in a few words that the object of the subsection which the Commons desire to retain is to reserve the power of giving the county councils "all or none." If the county council help the Board of Agriculture with their machinery, well and good, and the Board would be pleased to help them in carrying out a scheme; but if they pursued a line of conduct actively hostile, the Government will carry it out, and I maintain that the Government are right in objecting entirely to the Treasury being made to pay in every case for what they do in the county councils' default.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN said that when he moved the omission of this subsection he had no desire to erase it, but only to give the House of Commons another opportunity of discussing it. It was so discussed on the preceding night, he was afraid with no satisfactory result; but their Lordships had at all events done their best to ensure that the matter should be dealt with properly. He hoped the President of the Board of Agriculture, for the sake of the smooth working of the Bill, would be reasonably liberal in carrying out the powers given to the Treasury by this section, and would not attempt such an unpopular and unfair task as the imposing of burdens on the ratepayers against the will of their representatives.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord FITZMAURICE) said the noble Viscount opposite had secured his object and given the House of Commons another opportunity of discussing the relations of the Treasury with the county councils. It was not, however, possible at this stage for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make any further statement on the question. He felt perfectly certain that the assurances that had been given would be interpreted from the point of view of dealing as liberally as possible with the county councils.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND objected to the description of the clause given by the President of the Board of Agriculture. There was no question of the county council being "actively hostile." The power which the Government were taking for the central authority was the power to impose a rate compulsorily upon a county council which simply did nothing because it thought that nothing was required to be done.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: The Commons disagree to your Lordships' Amendment in Clause 6, page 4, line 32, after the word "to" to insert the words "purchase of," for the reason that it is undesirable to give compulsory powers where the object of the acquisition of land is the sale as distinguished from the letting of small holdings. I move that the House do not insist on the Amendment. As I have said before, the main principle of the Bill is that the county councils should let the land, as against peasant proprietary.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

*THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH said that as he was responsible for moving this Amendment in Committee, and as the triumph which he then experienced seemed likely to be short-lived, he would like to say a word before their Lordships finally left the subject. Referring to the description in another place of their Lordships' Amendments as nonsensical, mischievous, or introduced with the object of wrecking the Bill, he denied that this Amendment came properly under any of these descriptions. The complaint of their Lordships was that they had been unable to get definite explanations of the Bill. The courtesy of the President of the Board of Agriculture might be very soothing, but it was not satisfying. If the position of affairs had been reversed, and this Amendment had come up from the Commons and been refused by their Lordships, every Radical platform would have rung with denunciation. They would have been told they were endeavouring to introduce into the Agricultural system of England servile conditions like those of Chinese labour, and with a good deal more justification than in the case of Chinese labour. When they were told that the county councils were reasonable and that "Brutus was an honourable man," why did they not trust the county councils, and give them the option of purchase with all their boasted love of freedom and liberty. The Bill would restrict liberty and hold the county councils, the landowners, and the small holders in a rigid chain from which there was no escape. He was anxious to do nothing to wreck the Bill, and he left the Amendment in the hands of their Lordships.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW, taking note of the reason given by His Majesty's Government, could not advise the House to insist on its Amendment. It would certainly be a strong order compulsorily to expropriate "A" in order to sell the land to "B," and it was not quite so strong to expropriate for hiring. With all deference to the view expressed by Lord St. Aldwyn he hoped their Lordships would not seek to add further to the powers of the Act of 1892.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I have never disguised from the House my own strong feeling that it is to purchase that we should look for the solution of the difficulty with which this Bill is designed to deal. I believe that the alternative of hiring, although, no doubt, in some ways it is tempting to His Majesty's Government as being amongst other things more economical, is less good both for the person who hires and for the landowner from whom the property is taken. But His Majesty's Government have made it plain to us that this Bill is based entirely on hiring; and I understand, from the remarks which the noble Earl in charge of the Bill delivered with so much emphasis at the commencement of the proceedings this evening on the Bill, he has committed himself so deeply to hiring as a solution that if your Lordships were to insist on this Amendment our insistence would probably be fatal to the Bill. In these circumstances, I think His Majesty's Government must take the full responsibilit of having driven out of the measure this very moderate instalment of purchase. I think they will find that when their conduct is thoroughly understood in the country, to many people it will come as a great disappointment that with the opportunity before them which the Bill presents they should have brushed on one side, almost with contempt, the one solution of the agricultural difficulty which many people believe to be, not only the most desirable, but the only permanent solution.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH called attention to the reason for disagreeing to the Lords Amendment—

> "Because it is undesirable to give compulsory powers where the object of acquisition of land is the sale as distinguished from the letting of small holdings."

This was a very broad general statement, and he wished to ask if that represented the view of His Majesty's Government in all circumstances and for all time.

EARL CARRINGTON: The answer to that question is a distinct affirmative.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: The Commons object to Lord Jersey's Amendment in Clause 6, page 4, line 40. That Amendment runs as follows—

> "(3) No land shall be acquired by a county council without their county except with the consent of the council of the county in which such land is situate, provided that any county council aggrieved by a refusal to give such consent may appeal to the Board, and the Board shall have power finally to determine all questions arising under this subsection and to settle the terms of arrangement (if any) between the county councils of their respective counties."

The Commons disagree for the reason that it is undesirable that one county council should have power to hamper the operations of another. The Government adhere to the omission and cannot in any circumstances accept the Amendment.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND contended that it was necessary in the interest of the ratepayers in the second county, that some check should be put on these powers of outside acquisition. "Hamper" was a mild word to use, but it had application to the one county as well as to the other. What the objection to the Amendment really was they did not know. Without it, the second county might have its rates for police, drainage, and roads increased and a perfectly alien and, perhaps, very undesirable, population dumped down in its area. That was what the House of Commons thought was met by the use of the word "hamper." If a noble Lord, walking along the street, and feeling a man put his hand into his pocket, seized that hand, what would he think if a policeman came up and said, "Let that man go; it is undesirable that one member of the public should have power to hamper the operations of another?" But that was the the way in which His Majesty's Government looked at this matter. He moved as an alternative the following words as a fair compromise.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 40, to insert the words 'Where a county council desire to acquire compulsorily land without their county such council shall give notice in the prescribed manner of their intention to acquire such land to the county council of the county in which the land is situated, and if the council of that county object to such acquisition they may appeal to the Board, and the Board shall have power finally to determine all questions arising and to settle the terms of arrangements, if any, between the county councils of the respective counties.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland*).

EARL CARRINGTON: I recognise the noble Duke's wish to put as little difficulty in the way as possible, but the principle is just the same, and we cannot accept his proposal. One result of such a proceeding would be to send up the price of land 20 or 30 per cent.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: Why?

EARL CARRINGTON: The moment a public body is supposed to want a piece of ground up goes the price. The only way of getting land at any sort of reasonable price is not to bring the county council into the transaction at all. I cannot accept the Amendment.

VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN was very much surprised at this reply, for he could not see how the proposal would add to the publicity that must accompany the procedure under the Bill. It was only reasonable that a county council should communicate its intention in order that any objection, if it existed, should be stated, and he hoped the Government would accept the Duke of Northumberland's Amendment.

EARL CARRINGTON: The noble Viscount puts his points so well that it is extremely difficult to argue against him, but I submit that in the Bill as it stands there is ample provision for notice being given to the council of what has been called the invaded county. I am sure that any decent county council would acquaint the council of the county in which they thought of taking land of their intention so to do. Under the Bill arrangements between the county councils are in no way prohibited, and might easily be made.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Will the noble Earl point to that particular provision in the Bill?

EARL CARRINGTON: I am afraid I cannot at the moment.

*LORD SANDERSON thought the provision as to publicity to which the noble Lord had alluded was contained iu Subsection (1) of Clause 4. That subsection provided that—

"A copy of any draft scheme under this Act shall, if prepared by a county council be sent to the Board, and if prepared by the Commissioners be sent to the Board and to any county council concerned, and the draft scheme and any modifications therein which the Board may propose to make shall be published and advertised together with notice of the time within and manner in which objections are to be sent to the Board in such manner as the Board think best adapted for informing the persons affected and for insuring publicity."

LORD FITZMAURICE doubted there was that antagonism between counties which noble Lords on the Opposition benches seemed to imply. All the Government desired was that there should be facilities for meeting cases which frequently occurred owing to the peculiarities of county boundaries by allowing the council of the county in which the main portion of the land was situated, to extend its operations into the adjoining county where necessary.

THE EARL OF FEVERSHAM supported the Duke of Northumberland's Amendment, and said it was bad policy to allow one county council to invade the territory of another. The proposal as it stood would very likely create friction, discord, and jealousy.

On Question, Motion, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment," agreed to.

On Question, Amendment moved by the Duke of Northumberland negatived.

EARL CARRINGTON: The Commons disagree with your Lordships' Amendments in Clause 7, page 5, line 2, by which after the first "for" you inserted "selling or," and after "and" you inserted "sold or." They disagree because these Amendments are consequential on the Lords Amendment to Clause 6, page 4, line 32, to which the Commons disagree.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendments."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: In Clause 9, page 5, line 19, after the word "constituted" your Lordships inserted the words "under rules approved by the Board." The Commons disagree to this Amendment for the following reason:—Because the consent of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries under the clause is a sufficient safeguard.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: The Commons disagree to your Lordships' Amendment in Clause 11, page 5, line 33, by which you inserted after the word "council" the words "as agricultural holdings;" but they propose to amend the Clause by inserting after the word "council" the following words, "but so that the council shall not authorise more than one dwelling-house to be erected for occupation with any one small holding."

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: Your Lordships adopted an Amendment, on the proposition of the noble Viscount opposite (Viscount St. Aldwyn), leaving out Clause 13. The Commons disagree to this Amendment, because it is inexpedient that an adjoining owner should have the right of pre-emption in the case of a small holding intended to be sold by the owner thereof.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN said he had not the least objection to this clause, and had only moved its omission as a matter of drafting. Clause 13 repealed a section of an Act which was also repealed in the schedule, and was, therefore, unnecessary, but if the Government insisted on restoring it he had no objection.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: I move that your Lordships do not insist upon your Amendment to Clause 21 (Amendments of Allotments Acts), leaving out the subsection which gives power for the erection of dwelling-houses on allotments, where necessary, to which the Commons disagree, on the ground that it may be desirable to erect a dwelling-house on certain allotments. The refusal to allow a cottage to be built upon an allotment would be a little hard, so the Government propose to give general power of erecting suitable buildings. As the allotments run to five acres, it will very likely be necessary to build a cottage on some. Therefore I hope your Lordships will not insist upon your Amendment.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

*VISCOUNT GALWAY pointed out that his object in moving this Amendment had been that the parish councils should not build cottages out of the rates on the very small allotments. It was true allotments could now be made up to five acres, but there was no limit in the Act about building cottages. He now moved to amend the Amendment by adding, "No dwelling-house shall be erected for occupation on any allotments of less than three acres."

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 16, to insert the words no dwelling-house shall be erected for occupation on any allotments of less than three acres."—(*Viscount Galway.*)

VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN hoped the President of the Board of Agriculture would favourably consider the Amendment of the noble Viscount. The noble Earl appeared to suggest, in asking that the Amendment made by their Lordships should not be insisted on, that no cottage or dwelling-house could be erected by any public body on an allotment of an acre. That was contrary to the fact. A county council had ample power under this Bill, if it chose, to erect a cottage on an allotment of one acre. There was every reason why the county council was the better body to undertake such work. This clause dealt simply with the powers of parish councils; the powers of county councils were dealt with in another clause. Very few parish councils would be able to carry out a building scheme except at a great waste of public money, and with the probable result that the cottages would be very badly built. They had not the necessary knowledge and experience, and the result of an attempt on their part to carry out this provision would no doubt be a great burden on the rates of small parishes. The work of building houses was better undertaken by the county council than by the parish council. The parish council in this Bill meant, in very small parishes, the chairman of the parish meeting and a couple of overseers. Nothing would be more absurd than to entrust such a body with the power of erecting dwelling houses. He thought the suggestion of Viscount Galway a reasonable one.

EARL CARRINGTON: I hope the noble Viscount will not press his Amendment. Parish councils have done extremely well in days gone by in providing allotments, and they ought not to be shut out in this Bill. Besides, the county council would come to the rescue of the parish council in the erection of necessary houses, and would give them the advantage of their advice and their officials. In the name of the labourers of England, I would earnestly appeal to the noble Viscount not to press his Amendment.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY agreed with the noble Viscount that it would be detrimental that very small parish councils should possess this power. But he thought that in the case of the large and influential parish councils it should be given.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: We have heard no argument against the very reasonable proposal of my noble friend behind me. It has been suggested by Lord Kimberley that some parish councils are large and influential bodies. That may be the case; but the proposal of His Majesty's Government is not limited to the large parish councils. It extends to all of them, and it extends even to places where there is no parish council, and where these powers will be entrusted to two or three men. We all know how important it is that cottages should be built according to proper sanitary conditions, and how desirable it is that villages should be laid out on a proper basis; and to make a parish meeting, with perhaps a mason and a bricklayer as members of it, free to cover the place with buildings seems to me an absurdity for which I should not have thought room would be found in this Bill.

LORD FITZMAURICE said it was easy to conjure up visions of great danger in the case of very small parishes, but in reality the difficulties were of an exactly opposite kind. His experience of the very small parish councils, and of the still smaller parishes that only had parish meetings, was that there was great difficulty in getting them to do anything at all, and that if any member of these small councils came forward with anything approaching a building scheme, he would be turned out at the next election even if the scheme was a desirable one. This clause touched a question which came up in nearly every Bill relating to the local government of rural districts in England—the great difficulty caused by the existence of very small parishes. He held a view on this matter which he dared say would scandalise not only noble Lords opposite, but also some of his political friends; he would like to see some drastic Act of Parliament which would compel all these small parishes within a certain time to be amalgamated with their neighbours, so that all local authorities should be of a reasonable size. Minute parishes were an unmitigated nuisance, because they stood in the way of every public improvement.

On Question, Motion, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment," agreed to.

On Question, Amendment moved by Viscount Galway agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: In Clause 24, page 11, line 20, after the word "section" your Lordships inserted the words "and have refused to comply with the representation made by the council of the urban district or parish for the compulsory acquisition of land for allotments." The Commons disagree to this Amendment for the reason that the clause would not apply if an urban district or parish council were attempting to acquire land compulsorily for allotments.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: The next Amendment is a very short one; and, as I stated it to your Lordships at the time the House was considering it before, it will be sufficient if I merely remind your Lordships what it amounts to. According to the framework of the Bill as proposed by the Government, an Order may be made for the compulsory taking of land under certain conditions, and after this Order is confirmed by the Board it becomes final and can no longer be questioned by anyone or by any Court. Your Lordships inserted an Amendment in the place of that to say that the effect of this confirming Order should be only to empower the council to acquire lands "in accordance with the provisions of this Act"; and the effect of the Amendment your Lordships inserted was to leave it still open after the confirming Order for anyone to question in a Court of Law the validity of the Order. The Commons have disagreed with your Lordships' Amendment, and have supported the view of the Government, namely, that there ought to be an end of the thing after the Order has been confirmed by the Board, for the sake of avoiding litigiousness. I am afraid, my Lords, this is a very vital point of the Bill according to the sense and judgment of the Government; and I hope your Lordships will not insist upon your Amendment; for, after all, it is desirable to put an end to questionable points, and, after sufficient time has been given to make objections, that then no further objection can be made. Otherwise, there might be a sea of litigation.

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon its Amendment to Clause 26, page 12, line 16, to leave out from the word 'shall' to the end of Subsection (3), and to insert the words 'empower the council to acquire the land in accordance with the provisions of this Act.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN said that this Amendment was moved by a noble and learned Lord who had great and deserved authority in that House, Lord Robertson. He had communicated with the noble and learned Lord as to whether he desired to press the Amendment, and was informed by him that he did not desire to ask their Lordships to insist upon it. Speaking for himself, he (Viscount St. Aldwyn) felt the force of the argument which had been used by the noble and learned Lord upon the Woolsack that it was desirable that the time should come, and come early, when legal proceedings should not delay any Order under this Bill. He understood from the noble and learned Lord that it would be possible for an injunction to be obtained against the Board of Agriculture before the Order was made if any person interested should think the Board of Agriculture were exceeding their powers. After the Order was made, if the words which their Lordships had struck out were restored to the Bill, the Order would be final and could not be questioned in a Court of Law. The owners of land in England would be placed in a less favourable position in the matter than owners of land in Ireland were recently placed. But, notwithstanding that, he felt that they, in England, had some confidence in the fairness of the Board of Agriculture; and he hoped that, as the noble Lord had often promised them, the Bill would be administered in that spirit, with a desire to do justice to all parties concerned. For his part, therefore, he would not press the House to insist on its Amendment.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: In answer to the noble Viscount, I ought to say this, in order to make quite clear what I think will be the law on the subject. If any land is taken which is land prohibited by this Act to be taken, in my opinion the Courts of Law could interfere to prevent it just as they would to prevent any violation of an Act of Parliament; but if what I propose is assented to then they would not be able to interfere after the Order is finally confirmed.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Consequential Motions agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: We now come, my Lords, to the Amendment in Clause 30, page 15, line 27, with reference to the "home farm." I think the whole House was agreed on this point, and that we all wanted to carry out the same thing. The only difficulty was to find in the English language words to do it. We discussed the difficulties in reference to the words "home farm" and I suggested that we should add to those words "of any estate," and my noble friend (Lord Haversham) was quite content to agree to that. But it was decided—and I think very properly decided—that the words "of any estate" made "home farm" still more incomprehensible than before. Therefore we propose now to add some other words which I hope will be satisfactory to the critics in your Lordships' House, and the clause will read thus—"No land shall be authorised by an Order under this Act to be acquired compulsorily which, at the date of the Order, formed part of any park," etc., "or forms part of the home farm"—and then these new words—"attached to and usually occupied with a mansion house or that is otherwise required for the amenity or convenience of any dwelling-house." I hope those words cover everything that is wanted, so that under these words no part of any of your Lordships' home farms, or any farm that is part and parcel of any estate, shall be interfered with in any way. It would be a monstrous injustice to do so, and that is the last thing we wish to do under the Bill. I venture to hope that the clever heads which have at last got those words together will not have their labour in vain, and that their words may be accepted and put into the Bill. I move to disagree with the Commons Amendment to the Lords Amendment and I propose to amend the Lords Amendment in the way I have stated. I think that is very plain and the words proposed to be added "the home farm attached thereto."

Moved, "That this House do disagree with the Commons Amendment, and that the Lords Amendment be amended by the addition of the words 'attached to and usually occupied with a mansion house, or that is otherwise required for the amenity or convenience of any dwelling-house.'"—(*Earl Carrington.*)

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: After "pleasure ground."

EARL CARRINGTON: We keep all parks, pleasure grounds, amenities, pigsties—everything you can think of. All that is kept in, and after that we have the words "home farm attached to and usually occupied with a mansion house."

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Consequential Amendment agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: The next Amendment is in Clause 30, page 15, line 28. Your Lordships agreed after the word "dwelling-house" to insert the words "or which is woodland not wholly surrounded by land acquired by a council under this Act." That was, I think, Lord Camperdown's Amendment. The Commons propose to amend the Amendment by inserting after the words "surrounded by" the words "or adjacent to," and I propose the Lords agree with the Commons Amendment.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: At Clause 30, page 15, line 31, we come to Lord Verulam's Amendment in reference to places of "historic and archæological interest." There is again here the difficulty of the English language. The Amendment as passed by your Lordships was to insert the words "or includes the site of any ancient monument or place of historic or archæological interest." It has been now discovered that "places of historical interest" means battlefields, and under those conditions it would be impossible to accept the Amendment; so that I have ventured to alter the Amendment that I accepted from the noble Earl in the following words which I am told really do carry out the desired object. I propose to disagree with the Commons, but to amend the Bill by inserting after the word "undertaking" the following words "or is the site of an ancient monument or other object of archæological interest." I think that will be agreed to by the House, and I beg to move.

Amendment moved—

"After the word 'undertaking' to omit the words 'place of historic or' and insert the words 'is the site of an ancient monument or other object of.'"—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, insisted on.

EARL CARRINGTON: On Clause 30, page 6, line 4, we come to the question of the land which either does not exceed fifty acres "or if exceeding fifty acres is of an annual value for the purposes of income-tax not exceeding £50," and so on. I do not think I need explain it again to your Lordships, because you know all about the farms of 150 acres which let at 5s. an acre, and so on. I propose therefore, at once that your Lordships do not insist on your Amendment, but that you agree with the Commons Amendment, which is to insert at page 16, line 4, after the word "extent," the words "nor any part of any such holding." I do not know if I have explained it sufficiently, but I think the House understands the Amendment of Lord St. Aldwyn very well, and with the leave of the House I will not say anything more about it. I beg to move.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN said he had originally moved his Amendment with the object of assimilating the description of the small holding now in private occupation which was not to be taken by the Board or by the county council to the Government's own description of a small holding which they proposed to establish, which appeared in the interpretation clause of the Bill. It seemed to him that the two ought to be identical, and that it was better for every reason that they should be so. But he did not profess to think that the matter was one of very great importance, and as they were in process of argreement, and as the noble Lord and the Government seemed to attach importance to the clause remaining as it was, he did not press the Amendment.

EARL CARRINGTON: I am very much obliged to the noble Lord.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

On Question, Commons Amendment agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: The next is the Commons Amendment at Clause 33, page 16, line 36—I am not sure, but I think it was Lord Plymouth's Amendment.

THE EARL OF PLYMOUTH: Yes.

EARL CARRINGTON: It had reference to the powers of resumption in the case of the making of roads, reservoirs, railways, or other similar works necessary for the improvement and development of an estate. The Government considered—and I think the House will agree rightly considered—that the powers asked for by the noble Earl were rather too large and too wide. We are anxious to meet the noble Earl in every possible way, and I propose, with your Lordships' leave, that the clause should run as follows: After the words "Where land is shown to be required by the landlord to be used for building, mining, or other industrial purposes," to insert the words "or for roads necessary therefor." That is the Commons proposed Amendment, and I hope that that will meet the noble Earl's view. I beg to move to agree to the Commons Amendment.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: At Clause 35, page 18, lines 13 and 14, your Lordships Amendment was to leave out Subsection (4), which was that "Subsection (5) of Section 7 of the Allotments Act, 1887, is hereby repealed." The subsection repealed was to the effect that no buildings, otherwise than a tool-house, shed, greenhouse and so on, should be erected on an allotment. "Buildings" includes a cottage; and the effect of the Amendment would be to shut out a cottage from being built on a plot of land. "Stables, cow-houses and barns" were proposed to be erected under Clause 21, page 10, lines 16 to 20; but this is part and parcel of a previous attempt to cut out "buildings," which would include a cottage. I beg to move that this House do not insist upon its Amendment.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: The next Amendment is at Clause 43, page 20, line 39. Your Lordships, by your Amendment, provided that in cases where the Commissioners acting in default of a county council were authorised compulsorily to acquire land the arbitrator or valuer, instead of being required to be appointed by the Lord Chief Justice of England, should be so required "only in default of agreement between the parties." Agreement between the parties is of course very material in certain cases, but in this case that is not of so much importance, because the Commissioners themselves might, by refusing their assent, prevent the thing from coming into operation at all, and might require the Lord Chief Justice to appoint. I do not know if your Lordships think it necessary to insist upon this Amendment, but in this particular passage I do not think the provision would have any effect which could be objected to.

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN did not think the Amendment in this clause necessary.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: The next Amendment, my Lords, is different; it is an Amendment to the First Schedule, page 23, line 12, where provision is made for arbitration between the county council and the landlord; and your Lordships, by your former Amendment, provided that the parties—that is to say, the county council and the landlord —might agree to an arbitrator, instead of the Board appointing him. I submit to your Lordships that that is not a wise thing to do, for this reason: that they are not the only persons concerned; there are other persons interested, the Board is interested, and the Board may be put to expense in more ways than one, and may have to find the money. Where another party is interested, it does not seem to be desirable that the two parties should agree between themselves upon an arbitrator on a matter affecting the interests of others. That is the reason why I suggest that your Lordships should not insist upon this Amendment. It is regarded by His Majesty's Government as really a very vital matter.

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

LORD CLINTON said the object of the Amendment was to carry out the ordinary provisions of arbitrations which had always been enforced in agricultural districts to enable the parties to choose somebody with local knowledge. He and those who thought with him believed that local knowledge was of the greatest importance in the matters likely to be in dispute under this Bill. He admitted the force of the Lord Chancellor's views in favour of the parties paying the arbitrator choosing him; but he did not think it was of sufficient importance to override the other arguments —that the parties should have a choice in getting a man with local knowledge. He did not, however, wish to press the Amendment.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN agreed with the noble Lord (Lord Clinton). He did not wish to press the Amendment at that stage; but he thought the argument which the noble and learned Lord had used might have been met if the words "with the consent of the Treasury" had been inserted, by which it would have been made perfectly clear that the Treasury would have a voice in the matter. At the same time he did not wish to press the Amendment.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Consequential Amendment agreed to.

LORD FITZMAURICE called attention to the fact that their Lordships had made an Amendment to the First Schedule, page 23, line 33, leaving out certain words. That the Commons agreed to, but proposed to amend the Bill by inserting in the First Schedule, page 24, after line 2, the following new paragraph—

> "(6) The arbitrator, in assessing the compensation to be paid for land compulsorily acquired, shall take into consideration the rent, if any, at which the land has been let and the annual value at which the land is assessed for the purposes of income tax and rating."

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN said those words were struck out of the Bill for a very good reason in Committee. The only guidance given to the arbitrator when considering the terms of purchase by the Bill as it came to their Lordships' House, were the words "the rent (if any) at which the land has been last let and the annual value at which the land is assessed for the purpose of income-tax and rating." Those words might be a very good guide when it was a question of hiring, and the words stood in the hiring part of the schedule and had not been objected to by their Lordships. Here, however they were distinctly misleading by themselves alone. In buying land there might be a question of minerals or of future building value and other matters of that kind which the arbitrator would have to consider, but which would not be pointed out for his consideration by simply inserting the words "as to rent or annual value." He hoped, therefore, their Lordships would object to the Commons Amendment which was now proposed. He begged to move.

Moved, "That this House do disagree with the Commons in the said Amendment.—(*Viscount St. Aldwyn.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: The next Amendment is in the First Schedule, page 24, line 40, where your Lordships inserted after the word "aforesaid" the words—

> "And (unless otherwise agreed) to pay all taxes, rates, and charges usually borne by tenants to insure the buildings, and to keep the buildings and premises demised in repair, and shall, if the landlord has given notice in the prescribed manner that he so desires, provide for the reservation to him, and persons authorised by him, of exclusive rights of fishing and sporting over the land."

The Commons disagree to this Amendment; and they propose to amend the Bill by inserting in page 24, line 40, after the word "aforesaid" the words—

> "And (unless otherwise agreed) to keep the buildings and premises demised in repair;"

and by inserting in page 25, line 21, after the word "severance" the words—

> "the terms and conditions of the hiring, including any reservation of sporting or fishing rights."

I propose that this House agree with the Commons.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in their proposed Amendment."

VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN wished for an explanation or definition of the words "including any reservation of sporting or fishing rights." The point was that where land was compulsorily hired the valuer or arbitrator in fixing the rent should have regard to the question whether or not the sporting and fishing rights were reserved to the landlord. If the sporting and fishing rights were to be reserved to the landlord the rent might be fixed by the arbitrator or valuer at a lower figure than if they were not reserved. The word "reservation" in that connection did not strike him as being quite clear. In the case of a farm over which the landlord had hitherto had the sole sporting and fishing rights, would the arbitrator or valuer understand by those words that if the county council took that farm and did not reserve the sporting and fishing rights to the landlord, he (the arbitrator or valuer) would have to fix a higher rent than the tenant had previously paid, and that if the landlord lost his sporting and fishing rights he ought to be compensated?

EARL CARRINGTON: I am very glad the noble Lord has asked that question, which certainly ought to be answered, and very plainly too. The answer to the noble Lord's question is, undoubtedly, yes. If the landlord gives up his sporting and fishing rights he ought to get more rent—there is no doubt about that—but one hopes that the county councils will not be foolish enough to take the sporting and fishing rights. We do not wish to put a lot of poaching and sporting tenants on the land, or to have a lot of areas all over the country planted with buckwheat so that pheasants may be poached; anything of that sort would be put down with a strong hand; and the Board of Agriculture would certainly not allow any proceedings of that description.

On Question, Commons Amendment agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: The next Amendment is in the First Schedule, page 24, line 42. Your Lordships Amendment was to leave out the words "that it can be so broken up without depreciating the value of the land or." The "breaking up," refers to the permanent pasture. Nobody would want to break up good old grass land; that would be a sin; but there is a great deal of land in England which has laid itself down to grass which might with great advantage be put into cultivation again. I move that the House do not insist on the said Amendment.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment." — (*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: Then in the First Schedule, page 25, line 5, after the word "allotments," your Lordships inserted the words "for which proper compensation shall be paid to the landlord"—that is, for minerals and clay. The Commons propose to amend that Amendment by substituting the following words—

"And except upon payment of compensation for minerals, gravel, sand, or clay so used."

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: The next Amendment, which is to the First Schedule, page 25, line 16, is somewhat analogous to what has been already agreed to by your Lordships' House on this stage of the Bill. "Arbitration" was by your Lordships' House substituted for "valuation," and "arbitrator agreed on between the parties, or, in default of agreement" by someone else, was agreed instead of "valuer." The real point here is simply a question of cost. His Majesty's Government are of opinion that if, instead of "valuation," "arbitration" is inserted it will necessarily increase the cost of hiring land. That is familiar to all who are in the habit of observing these matters; and I trust your Lordships will not press your Amendment, but will allow the Commons' very strong objection to prevail in this matter.

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN said the point which the noble and learned Lord had raised was, in his opinion, the most important point they had had to deal with that afternoon. It made a material difference to the parties interested whether the process under the first part of the schedule was one of arbitration or valuation. The Agricultural Holdings Act provided for arbitration in every conceivable case as between landlord and tenant by a single arbitrator, with such provisions as made the arbitration as cheap as possible; but at the same time that arbitration, like all other arbitrations, was a regular hearing at which the parties might be represented on both sides, and evidence might be taken on oath. The whole matter must be thoroughly considered by the arbitrator, who gave his decision, not on legal points, perhaps, but, at any rate, in a fairly legal form. There was no very great amount of cost incurred, according to the information which had reached him, in arbitrations under the Agricultural Holdings Act, and he did not believe there need be. At any rate, if that was the objection—and, so far as he understood what the noble and learned Lord had said, it was the sole objection which His Majesty's Government had to inserting "arbitration" instead of "valuer" in this schedule—he thought it would be perfectly possible, as he would proceed to show, to meet it. A valuer need not hear the case at all; he might simply go and look at the land—he would not take proper evidence, there would be no regular proceedings before him, and in his belief—although he was very sorry to differ from the noble and learned Lord—the matter would not be as well dealt with, either in the interests of the owner, or, what was of quite equal importance, in the interests of the occupying tenant, by a valuer as by an arbitrator. An occupying tenant of a large farm under this Bill might have half his farm taken away, and a question of severance of great value to him would at once arise. Was he to remain in his farm, or was he to leave it? The whole work of his life might, so to speak, be put an end to by the operations under this schedule, and was it not right that such a person should have, at any rate with regard to the question of severance and compensation for unexhausted improvements, the same protection by arbitration as he would have if his landlord had given him notice to quit, or if he himself had given notice to quit to his landlord? He hoped, in spite of what the noble and learned Lord had said, that His Majesty's Government would be prepared to reconsider this question. He suggested, in order to meet His Majesty's Government as far as possible, that their Lordships should agree to Amendments which would substitute "valuer" for "arbitrator" throughout this clause, but that at the end, before Subsection (7), they should insert the following new subsection—

> "The matters to be referred to a valuer before the commencement of any tenancy created by compulsory hiring shall, on the application of either party, be ordered by the Board to be determined by arbitration instead of by a valuer, provided that any costs of the arbitration which the Board may deem to have been incurred by reason of such matters being referred to arbitration instead of to a valuer shall be paid by the party applying for arbitration."

He thought their Lordships would see that that effectually safeguarded the parties to the case against the increased costs which were such a source of dread to His Majesty's Government, and it would result in this—that unless there was a really important case which the parties desired should be heard by an arbitrator, the valuer would still be employed. If either party was willing to risk the costs that would be incurred by requiring arbitration, and to pay those costs, then arbitration would be granted by the Board, but only in those cases. He thought this would be an ample safeguard against any increased costs through arbitration under this clause, and he hoped their Lordships would favourably consider the proposal.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW said the noble Lord opposite (Earl Carrington) had made several appeals to their Lordships upon other Amendments not to endanger or jeopardise the Bill, and he, for one, would be one of the very last persons to invite the House to agree to any Amendment which would be likely to have that effect But he really must appeal to the noble Earl, and to His Majesty's Government, to give very careful consideration to these Amendments, which covered the whole of Subsection (3). Subsection (3) provided for the determination of the amount of rent to be paid by the council, and under (c) the rent to be paid for the residue of the holdings after a part had been taken. But to his mind Subsection (b) was by far the most important of the three. It provided as to the "amount of any compensation to be paid by the council to any person entitled thereto"—not only the landlord, but also the tenant—"in respect of land or any interest therein, or in respect of improvements executed on the land or otherwise"—that was to say, all the interests of the tenant farmer in the holding which he occupied. To his mind, one of the worst points about the Bill was that the interests of the tenant farmer had been too much overlooked from beginning to end. Their Lordships had discovered many points on which the interests of the landowner had not been fairly and equitably considered, and undoubtedly (a) and (c) referred to the interest of the landowner. He was not pleading for him. "Suffering was the badge of all his tribe," and they knew quite well that they must not put forward too strenuous a plea in his favour. But he did put forward a very strong and a very earnest plea on behalf of the tenant farmers who might be dispossessed under the Bill. Last session the noble Lord had come with a big banner, which he had waved in their Lordships' House, of the "Tenant Farmers' Charter," and now he came down with a Bill under which a tenant farmer might be ousted from his holding, or a part of his holding, in a manner wholly different from that in which he could be turned out of it by his landlord. He might be turned out by the *ipse dixit* of a valuer who came down and walked over the farm, asking nobody's opinion, taking no evidence of any sort or kind, but writing to the Board of Agriculture and saying: "This is my award; take it, or leave it." That was eminently unfair to the tenant farmer, and he thought that, at least as far as the tenant farmer was concerned, their Lordships ought to insist that he should be so far protected as that his case might be heard before an arbitrator, and not before a valuer. He would not enter into the question of the difference between an arbitrator and a valuer, because he imagined that that was quite familiar to their Lordships, but whatever they might do with regard to the owner of land, they, at least, should give that amount of protection to the occupier.

Earl CARRINGTON: This raises a very important point indeed. We have been told that the interests of the tenant farmers have been overlooked, and an earnest plea has been made on their behalf. I think His Majesty's Government would be the last people who would wish to do anything that was inconsistent with fair play towards the British tenant farmers. The noble Earl opposite twitted me about the "Charter" that was passed last year, but I would remind him that in the Land Tenure Bill of last year compensation was only given for unreasonable disturbance. I was asked about this several times across the House, and I believe it was the consensus of opinion in this House that small holdings came under the category of "good estate management," and were not to be classed as "unreasonable disturbance," and therefore the tenant farmer was unable to claim compensation if a portion of his farm was taken off for small holdings if there was an absolute necessity for them in the district. As far as I understand it—the noble Viscount opposite will correct me if I am wrong—having read his proposed new paragraph very carefully through, it appears to me that all the three stages are to be determined by arbitration instead of by valuation. That I understand would be the case if the new paragraph stands as it is, but Lord Onslow has put, as far as I could gather, a new complexion on it altogether. He will correct me if I am making a mistake, but I understood him to suggest that arbitration instead of valuation should be confined to the sitting tenant when he goes out, so that a sitting tenant who had to go out on account of the action of a county council would be in exactly the same position as a sitting tenant who had to go out owing to the action of a private landlord. This, of course, is a new departure altogether, and at the moment it would be impossible for me to give an answer but I thank noble Lords opposite for the suggestion, and I may say that we will give it the most careful and earnest consideration. I cannot say more than that at present, but I am quite prepared to go as far as that.

The Earl of CAMPERDOWN was afraid there was very little time for the noble Earl to take this matter into consideration, seeing that Parliament was to be prorogued to-morrow. He apprehended that the noble Earl would have to make up his mind with very little loss of time.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: I have not got before me the Amendment of the noble Viscount, but I followed it when he read it, and it appeared to me that it was one which substituted arbitration for valuation throughout the whole business, both for the sitting tenant, the owner, and everybody—it is to be a permissive arbitration in which the difference between the arbitration and the valuation costs is to be in the discretion of the Board for special reason shown.

Viscount St. ALDWYN: No; they are to be paid by the person asking for the arbitration.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: If the Board thinks them excessive.

Viscount St. ALDWYN: Yes.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: The noble Viscount will see the difficulty: who is to say that the hearing of witnesses is necessitated by arbitration as opposed to valuation? Valuers can hear witnesses if they like, just as well as arbitrators. Therefore the complexity and difficulty of the Board having to decide between the two is absolutely insoluble, and besides, it strikes at the whole principle of the Bill, or I may rather say at that condition under which alone the Bill could possibly work, namely, a condition of strict economy.

Another alteration was suggested by the noble Earl, namely, as I understood him, that if the sitting tenant was dispossessed by reason of the operation of the Act he should be able to take advantage of the arbitration under the Agriclutural Holdings Act in regard to such things as were covered by the Agricultural Holdings Act.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: And severance.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I did not understand the noble Earl to suggest that.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: Certainly.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: All I can say is—and I think that is what my noble friend said—that the Bill, in considering what could be done, could only suggest arbitration in the case of a sitting tenant in regard to those things which under the Agricultural Holdings Act would entitle him to compensation. In other words, so far as the Agricultural Holdings Act is concerned he would be treated as having been an outgoing tenant under that Act, though he was dispossessed by virtue of his land being taken under this Act. Otherwise I am afraid there is an irreconcilable difference between us, because the Government cannot possibly accept the idea of arbitration as opposed to valuation.

VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN spoke with much diffidence as against what had been said by the noble and learned Lord, but it occurred to him that if a landlord required a tenant to give up part of any farm, as the county council could require him to give up any farm under the provision of this Bill, under the Agricultural Holdings Act the question of severance would in some way or other arise. He could not imagine that it would be possible for a landlord to do such a thing without the Agricultural Holdings Act applying to the new circumstances in which he would put the tenant by his action. He could only suggest under the circumstances that they must press this matter, even in order that His Majesty's Government might be able to carry out what—after what the noble Earl had said—he might accept as their own suggestion. Therefore he would propose that their Lordships' should insert this new subsection, and then His Majesty's Government would consider what they could offer to them in its place.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I only wish to say one sentence, and that is that if a man has half his farm taken he would be entitled under this Bill to compensation for severance under the Act, but he also would be entitled to compensation for loss of improvements for the lands taken away from him growing crops, and so forth. What is meant, as I understand, is that only those subjects which would come under the Agricultural Holdings Act should become the subjects of arbitration in accordance with the principles of the Agricultural Holdings Act.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: Will the noble Viscount move his Amendment now?

VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN thought there were other Amendments before his. The new sub-section he proposed would come in before the last sub-section of the First Schedule.

Consequential Amendment agreed to.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: With regard to your Lordship's Amendment to the First Schedule, page 25, line 21, namely, to leave out the words "rating or taxation" and insert the word "income-tax, the terms and conditions of the hiring," the meaning of that was that the "terms and conditions of the hiring" were to be considered in fixing the rent, all of which is reasonable enough. The Commons, however, propose to amend this Amendment by substituting "or rating" for "the terms and conditions of the hiring."

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: Your Lordships left out paragraph 6 in the First Schedule, page 25, lines 33 to 40, which provided that any person interested in any valuation should give the valuer assistance and information, and should give him access to books, accounts, vouchers and so on. An apprehension arose in your Lordships' minds that access to title deeds might under this clause be required, and accordingly your Lordships struck the clause out. The Commons do not assent to that, but they propose to amend the Bill by leaving out the word "require" at page 25, line 37, and inserting the words "reasonably require for the purposes of valuation,' so that the documents which must be produced are such documents relating to the land compulsorily hired as he may reasonably require for the purposes of valuation.

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN submitted that the words as they stood were rather too wide, and that the words "except documents of title" ought to be inserted before the words "as he may reasonably require for the purposes of valuation." He understood His Majesty's Government to agree to that for obvious reasons.

Amendment moved—

"In Schedule 1, page 25, line 36, after the word 'hired,' to insert the words 'except documents of title.'"—(*Viscount St. Aldwyn.*)

On Question, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment," Motion agreed to.

On Question, Amendment proposed by Viscount St. Aldwyn agreed to.

Commons' Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN moved to insert after Subsection (6) of Part II. of the First Schedule the words he had already read.

Amendment moved—

"In the First Schedule, page 25, line 40, to insert the following new paragraph:—'The matters to be referred to a valuer before the ending of any tenancy created by compulsory hiring, shall, on the application of either party, be ordered by the Board to be determined by arbitration instead of by a valuer, provided that any costs of the arbitration which the Board may deem to have been incurred by reason of such matters being referred to arbitration instead of to a valuer shall be paid by the party applying for arbitration.'"—(*Viscount St. Aldwyn.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

EARL CARRINGTON: In the Second Schedule, page 26, line 9, your Lordships left out "Subsection (5) of Section 7." The Commons disagreed to this Amendment, because it is desirable that there should be power to erect on allotments buildings other than a tool-house, shed, greenhouse, fowl-house, or pig-sty. I beg to move that the House do not insist upon its Amendment.

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon the said Amendment."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

A Committee appointed to prepare a reason for the Lords disagreeing to one of the Commons Amendments: The Committee to meet forthwith.

CABS AND STAGE CARRIAGES (LONDON) BILL.

Commons reason for disagreeing to one of the Lords' Amendments considered (on Motion).

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I understand that this Amendment, which relates to what are called privileged cabs, is a substantive Amendment, and that Lord Stalbridge is about to move an Amendment to which His Majesty's Government offer no opposition.

LORD STALBRIDGE, in moving to leave out Subsection (2), page 2, line 4, said that the railway companies could not move from their original position, which he had stated frankly to the House, namely, that they believed that the privilege system was the one best suited to serve the true interests of the travelling public, and they did not believe that the scheme proposed by His

Majesty's Government would effect that purpose. If it did not, the responsibility would not lie upon the railway companies but upon His Majesty's Government. The railway companies would certainly do nothing aggressive, but would do what they could to carry out the intentions of the Bill. The subsection which he proposed to omit might interfere with the omnibuses of railway companies which now plied for passengers at the stations, and he did not believe that it was at all intended by the Government to effect that object. He understood that His Majesty's Government did not object to the omission of the subsection, and he therefore begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 4, to leave out Subsection (2)."—(*Lord Stalbridge.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said that before the Amendment was agreed to he wanted to have some slightly more definite assurance from His Majesty's Government with regard to the matter. If he might say so without offence, he thought the noble Lord who represented the Home Office was somewhat less than fair to the railway companies last night upon the matter of the monetary arrangements that were made. He seemed distinctly to imply—and his words, as reported, gave a distinct colour to the suggestion—that the railway companies were arguing this privilege cab system because it was supposed to put money into their pockets. He had done his best to disabuse the noble Lord's mind of that idea last night, and he wished to repeat in the most emphatic way that the question of the money concerned was an extremely small affair, and, indeed, on balance the railway companies lost money by the system. It was really not a money question with them at all, but entirely a question of what system was best calculated to serve the interests of the customers of the railway companies—the travelling public. Beyond all question, the railway companies were very anxious as to the effect of this proposed change upon the convenience of the public. They believed that they would have very much greater difficulty in the future in serving the public than they had had in the past, and he was particularly anxious that in the event of any disturbance in the cab trade such as had happened before, the freedom of the railway companies should not be interfered with in doing their very best to serve the public. He thought the omission of the sub-section proposed by the noble Lord (Lord Stalbridge) might well go some way toward securing that object, but he hoped that it was distinctly understood that in the event of disturbances of that kind, the Home Office meant that the next sub-section might be brought into operation, and that any restriction which might hamper the railway companies in getting away their passengers from the stations would be suspended. He had every reason to believe that he would get that assurance, and he was most anxious not to deal with the matter controversially, but he hoped it would be distinctly stated on the authority of His Majesty's Government that they did not intend to hamper the railway companies in such a set of circumstances as he had indicated.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: I am glad to be able to give the noble Lord the assurance which he requires. The omission of this sub-section would neither enable the railway companies to organise a system of their own nor prevent them from doing so in the event of such a disturbance arising as the noble Lord has suggested. The position of the companies would be the same as at the present moment. The companies, of course, would not be able to grant preference in the admission of their own cabs, but since the very basis of the noble Lord's question is the suggestion that the other cabs would refuse to enter, the question of preference does not arise. I think that meets the noble Lord's question.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Exactly; but I wanted to know whether the next sub-section would be so used as not to stand in the way of our operations.

*EARL BEAUCHAMP: I beg your pardon. I ought to have mentioned that, but I am sure I may say that the Secretary of State would be quite ready, if the need for it is shown, to suspend the clause, as he reserves to himself the power to do under Sub-section (2).

On Question, "That this House do not insist upon their Amendment to leave out Clause 2, to which the Commons disagreed," Motion agreed to.

On Question, "That Sub-section (2) stand part of the Bill," Motion negatived.

Lord STALBRIDGE next moved in page 2, line 17, to leave out all words after "affect" to the end of the sub-section, and to insert certain words. He said that this Amendment met the point to which he had drawn the attention of His Majesty's Government last night. He thought the words proposed would enable the railway companies to a certain extent to deal with the difficulties which might arise under the future regulations. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 17, to leave out all words after the word 'affect' to the end of the sub-section, and to insert the words 'liability of cabs or the drivers thereof to comply with any regulations or conditions which may be made by the company having control of the railway station for the purpose of maintaining order or dealing with the traffic at such station, including regulations as to: (1) the number of cabs to be admitted at any one time; (2) the rejection of cabs and drivers unfit for admission; and (3) the expulsion of any cabman who has been guilty of any misconduct or of a breach of the company's by-laws or regulations.'"—(*Lord Stalbridge.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord STALBRIDGE next moved to insert in page 2, line 25, the words, "and shall remain in force up to the first day of January, 1910." He said this would give two years for the experiment. He would have preferred one year, but in deference to the wishes of the Home Office, the companies had accepted two years, and he thought that in that time they would be able to show, as had been shown in a former experiment, what the value of the Home Office suggestion was. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 25, at the end, to add the words, 'And shall remain in force up to the first day of January, 1910.'"—(*Lord Stalbridge.*)

Earl Beauchamp.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill returned to the Commons.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Order of the day for the consideration of Commons Amendments to the Lords Amendments read.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: I ought to point out that owing to the short time which has elapsed since these Amendments reached my noble friend's hands, it is impossible for him to deal with them properly at the moment. And as I understand that the House is to adjourn shortly during pleasure, I suggest that the consideration of this Bill be proceeded with after the House has resumed, when we shall be able very soon to get through it.

The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: I understand that it would be a convenience to several Members of your Lordships' House if the debate on the Transvaal Loan Guarantee Bill were proceeded with.

The Earl of ONSLOW did not know whether there was any material point in the Amendments to the Bill now before the House. He had looked through the Amendments which had been put down on a sheet of paper—naturally they were not on the Table—but he believed them to be merely verbal Amendments, to carry out certain transpositions rendered necessary by previous Amendments. But he would have thought that, the matter having been looked into by the officials of the House, the Amendments might be agreed to.

The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: May I suggest that the debate on the Transvaal Loan (Guarantee) Bill be taken now?

The LORD CHANCELLOR: I would like that course to be adopted because I do not like putting to the House Amendments as to which no one has the least idea what they are, or what they are not. This kind of difficulty always happens under circumstances such as the present, and it is nobody's fault in the least.

Consideration postponed.

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TRANSVAAL LOAN (GUARANTEE) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ELGIN): My Lords, this is a Bill of some importance, and even at this time of the session I suppose it will be desirable for me to make a short statement, and I will make it as short as I can, setting forth the reasons for which I ask your Lordships to read it a second time. The object of the Bill is to authorise the Treasury to guarantee the payment of a loan to be raised by the Colony of the Transvaal, so as to enable the Transvaal Government to raise a sum of £5,000,000 on better terms than they would otherwise be able to obtain. On that I think there arise two questions—first, whether there are good reasons which justify them in making and us in accepting this proposal, and, secondly, whether the method which it is proposed to adopt for raising the loan is a reasonable one under the circumstances.

The purposes for which this loan is required are set forth in the First Schedule, and they are are follows:—In the first place for Land and Agricultural Bank, £2,500,000; and secondly, for railways, public works, irrigation, agricultural settlement and development, the balance of the loan. This Bill I may say follows the provisions of the Act of 1903, by which a loan of £35,000,000 was raised for the Transvaal, except that in this case the rate of interest is left entirely open; and the objects of the Bill, as stated in the schedule to which I have just referred are, as I have said, for services for the development of the Transvaal, which are partly services similar to those for which the former loan was raised, but which are all development services and in accordance with the spirit of that Bill. I think it will be admitted that these objects are in themselves proper and legitimate objects. There may be some differences of opinion in regard to the creation of a Land Bank. I suppose in all parts of the world there are farmers who desire to raise money for the development of their holdings, and many do raise it without any help from the Government. So far as I am concerned, I do not deny that I have sympathy with those who show independence in such a matter. But, at the same time, there can be no doubt that a condition of general indebtedness among agriculturists is a matter of State concern. Certainly anyone who has had to do with the government of India will agree with that statement; and it seems to me also that different countries must be dealt with according to their different circumstances. The means which are proposed in this Bill are not the invention of the new Government of the Transvaal. The Land Bank, I think it is well known, has had the support of the High Commissioner, who appointed a Commission on the subject, which, I believe, has also reported in its favour; and I think I may say to the House, without impropriety, that it has constantly been urged upon me by Lord Selborne. The matter came before me soon after I entered office. But at that time the Government were committed to the consideration of the constitutional position, and it seemed to us that it would be right to reserve our judgment on the subject until the future Government of the country was determined and elected. But I am confident that had it not been so the question of the Land Bank would have been pushed to the front at that time. The only doubt in my mind is whether it would not have been pushed in a more pressing manner even than it is now. With regard to the Land Bank, as I have said, a Commission was appointed by Lord Selborne, which went into this question, and Lord Selborne not only appointed a Commission to report on the subject, but he himself has written strongly in its favour. I do not wish to delay your Lordships, so I will not do more than quote a single paragraph. In a despatch which was addressed, not to me, but to my predecessor in office, he says—

> "I hope that I may receive your sanction to such a scheme. It will be a most popular measure among the Boers themselves. Wherever I have gone, the farmers have pressed such a scheme upon me. It will almost certainly necessitate the raising of a loan by the Transvaal Government. What the amount of such a loan would be it is difficult to say; that is one of the points on which the Commission will guide me"—[the Commission had not then been appointed]—" but I do not think it could be less than one million sterling."

The Act which has actually been adopted by the Transvaal Government is a very elaborate one, with many restrictions and safeguards; and with an ample margin of interest on loans; and, if it is administered, as we believe it will be, with prudence and caution, I do not think there can be much risk of loss. To mention only one or two provisions in this Act, as regards security, no advance on freehold or quit-rent lands may exceed two-thirds of the fair agricultural or pastoral value; no advance on leasehold of less than ninety-nine years, on occupation land, may exceed one-half the lessee's or grantee's interest; the covenants or conditions of the lease or grant must have been complied with; the land must be valued by an approved valuer, and his valuation must be placed on formal record; the Bank is given the fullest powers of a mortgage over the land on which money is advanced; interest is to be at 5 per cent., and the applicant must state the purpose for which the loan is required. So far, my Lords, with regard to the Land Bank. The other purposes which are mentioned in the Schedule are—for railways, public works, irrigation, agricultural settlement, and development; and of this a considerable sum, £600,000, is required to meet the liabilities of the Inter-colonial Council.

Your Lordships will remember that the Inter-colonial Council has had the spending of the £35,000,000 loan, and it has not now sufficient funds to carry out its obligations; £154,000 of the £600,000 is required to carry out the public works programme; £83,000 is required to complete the allocation in respect of land settlement; and about £350,000 is required for railway purposes. It is no doubt the general rule that the Government of a self-governing colony must cut its coat according to its cloth, and must not undertake larger expenditure than that for which it can provide funds. But the position here is very exceptional. The new Transvaal Government has to take over these schemes which are incomplete. Some of them were initiated, not by the late Government of the Colony, at least not directly, but by the Inter-colonial Council, which, it will be remembered, brought together the interests of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony. This is particularly the case with regard to railways and to land settlement; and the case of the latter, in which, as I know, many noble Lords in this House take a special interest, is very much to the point. Among the liabilities of the Inter-colonial Council is, as I have said, the sum of £83,000 that is now due to the Land Settlement Board established under the Letters Patent. It is absolutely necessary that the Land Settlement Board should receive this sum; otherwise it will be difficult for them to carry out their duties. They will receive it out of this loan if it is sanctioned. If the loan is not sanctioned there will be considerable difficulty. The assets of the Inter-colonial Council consist largely of advances in regard to which it seems inevitable that there should be some extension of time for repayment. The Inter-colonial Council have funds owing to them due to the fact that certain repatriation advances have not yet been recovered. It was expected that a sum of about £1,000,000 would fall in in the course of the present financial year. But in April last the Ministry determined that to call in these debts at that time would cause great distress, and they have, therefore, postponed the collection of the debts for a year. In July, 1905, it was estimated that the outstanding debt recoverable in June, 1906, was about £2,000,000; but it had been assumed even then that there would be considerable difficulty in collecting the debt, for this sum was only arrived at by deducting 33 per cent. for bad debts. Besides this £600,000 for the Inter-colonial Council, there are the liabilities of the Treasury, and I may mention the following as being also in a sense liabilities of the Government—that is to say,

£200,000 for the purchase of the Klerksdorp Fourteen Streams Railway, £250,000 for the Lydenburg Railway, £600,000 for other railway projects, including the relaying of the railway to Delagoa Bay, £100,000 for public buildings, £400,000 for irrigation, and £300,000 for agricultural settlement and development. It will be seen that there are, on the one hand, as the largest of these assets, the repatriation debts to which I have referred, which I need not remind your Lordships were loans to Boer farmers to enable them to recover from the effects of the war, and there are, on the other hand, the advances made for land and stock to British settlers. I think it must be admitted that the only way in which the Transvaal Government can meet the immediate necessities of the Inter-colonial Council and the Land Settlement Board is by a loan, and they are prepared to take that course and to act up to their responsibilities.

So far I have been dealing with the first question to which I referred at the opening—namely, whether the purposes for which this loan is required are reasonable and proper purposes. I think I have shown that they follow directly from the purposes for which the loan of £35,000,000 was raised, and was granted to the use of the Transvaal, and I submit, therefore, that it is not an unreasonable thing that this extra loan, to complete the obligation so undertaken, should be raised, and raised in the same manner. As to the second point, namely, whether the methods by which we propose that this loan should be raised and guaranteed are reasonable, I maintain that we have followed the precedent of 1903, and that we have followed it for similar purposes.

We may be asked—I think it has been asked—whether the Colony can bear the burden. I think if I give you one or two figures that will be pretty clear. In the first place, there is the question of the present state of the debt. There are debts of approximately £13,500,000, which represent the acquisition of railways. That is productive. Six millions represents fresh railway construction and the improvement of existing railways. That again, I think, we may count as productive. I may mention that since the war the railways in the new Colonies have increased from 1,109 miles to 2,565 miles, or 131 per cent. £2,000,000 represents public works; £2,500,000 represents the debt of the old South African railways, largely arising from public works; and £2,550,000 represents expenditure on land settlement. Therefore, as things stand now, we have the existing debt of the Inter-colonial Council of £35,000,000. If we wish to restrict ourselves to the Transvaal, we must deduct the share of the Orange River Colony, which reduces the debt to £26,000,000. That is the present state of the debt. If we add the £5,000,000 now asked for, the total future Transvaal debt will be £31,000,000. That is £24 7s. per head of the whole population, or £103 5s. per head of the white population alone. That, as I have said, is largely productive expenditure, and I would therefore like to add a word or two as to revenue. The estimated revenue of the Transvaal in 1907–8 is £4,468,500. Of course that does not include any part of the railway revenue which comes under the Inter-colonial, Council. The estimated net revenue of the Central South African Railway for the same year—and I believe it was expected to be an unfavourable year—is about £1,250,000. This does not allow for the debt charges on the guaranteed loan, of which £750,000 is charged in the accounts of the Central South African Railway. It is not possible to say how much is earned in the Transvaal, and how much in the Orange River Colony; but of the line working at the end of 1906 between three-fifths and two-thirds were in the Transvaal, and if the net earnings be divided between the two Colonies in proportion to the mileage they contain, the Transvaal must be credited with upwards of £700,000, making the total Transvaal revenue for the year (which it is maintained is a year of depression), not less than £5,175,000.

*VISCOUNT MIDLETON: May I ask the noble Earl if that revenue from the railways has been maintained in the present year?

*THE EARL OF ELGIN: This is an Estimate for the year 1907–8, the year which is not complete. I should like to refer to two opinions with regard to the ability of the Transvaal to bear an increased debt. I think I shall not be misrepresenting the noble Viscount on the cross benches if I say he has always been in favour of free expenditure on productive works in these countries.

VISCOUNT MILNER: Hear, hear.

*THE EARL OF ELGIN: I find that he has said on one occasion—

> "We are in a position in which a considerable outlay on capital account is essential to any large growth of income. We must look forward for increased revenue to the increase of the sources of revenue, the growth of population and business, improved means of transport, and more productive agriculture."

VISCOUNT MILNER: Hear, hear.

*THE EARL OF ELGIN: These are objects which, as I maintain, we are seeking to foster by the loan that it is proposed in this Bill to raise. Then, if I may refer to Mr. Chamberlain, he arranged at one time for a total debt of £65,000,000, and he presented Papers to Parliament from which it appeared that the Transvaal after meeting the loan charges on £65,000,000 would yet have a surplus of £300,000. I think we are entitled to remember that in addition to the loan of £35,000,000 there was a proposal of a war contribution of £30,000,000, and that is the reason why I mention the sum of £65,000,000. If, according to the calculations of Mr. Chamberlain—and I believe they were assented to by the noble Viscount on the cross benches—the Transvaal could be reasonably expected to bear the burden of that debt, surely, then, it cannot be said that there can be any doubt that this loan of £5,000,000 is raised upon reasonable security.

There is one other fact which I think is worth mentioning, and that is that I believe at the time when the sum of £35,000,000 was adjusted and settled as the amount of the loan to be raised, the proposal was originally for a loan of £40,000,000. If that is so, and I believe it is correct, we, in asking for the loan included in this Bill, are simply reverting to that proposition, and we do so, as I have stated and I think proved, for the same purposes for which the loan all along has been justified. Therefore, I claim that this Bill is justified by the circumstances. I maintain that it is reasonable and proper that the new Government should desire to complete the arrangements into which their predecessors entered, and for which the country has become responsible. Those arrangements were entered into with the approval and sanction of the Imperial Government, and therefore I think it is reasonable and proper also that the Imperial Government should continue to the present Government the support and approval which it gave to their predecessors. I believe that the security for the loan is ample, and therefore move the Second Reading of this Bill.

Moved, "That the said Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Elgin.*)

VISCOUNT MILNER: My Lords, I am most reluctant to detain your Lordships even for a short period in the present stage of our proceedings, especially in an academic discussion. There is, I take it, no one with the slightest idea of offering opposition to this Bill; but I should feel almost cowardly if I did not enter my protest, one word of protest, against this loan and against the whole policy of which it is the outcome. When I say that, I do not refer to the policy of granting self-government to the Transvaal. I stated my objections to that policy when it was first mooted, and I have nothing to retract. But it is an accomplished fact to-day, and every good citizen, whether here or in the Transvaal, must wish it to succeed, and must try to make it succeed. My view has always been that, while we should not be precipitate to grant self-government, yet having granted it we should abide loyally by the consequences of our own act, and abstain rigidly from all further interference in the domestic affairs of a self-governing Colony.

But this loan, as I shall hope to show, is part of a policy of continued interference and mischievous meddling in affairs which the people of the Transvaal ought now to be left to settle for themselves. It is that which I object to—not self-government, but the departure from the principles of self-government which we ourselves have granted. I know there are a large number of people who hold the view, which is held by high authority, that the Mother Country ought never to guarantee the loan of a self-governing Colony. I cannot go that length. Everybody must admit that such a course is unusual. Precedents have been cited, but no precedent has been cited within the last thirty years; and that fact alone, I think, shows that the course proposed is a very exceptional one. Everybody will agree that it requires special justification. But I for one am not prepared to maintain that, if a strong case could be made out, the Mother Country would not be right in guaranteeing the loan even of a self-governing Colony, or that other Colonies would be justified in complaining on that account. But what I say is that it can never be right for the Mother Country to guarantee the loan of a self-governing Colony when the people of the Colony are not agreed upon the loan, when the question whether the loan ought to be raised or not is a burning question of domestic politics, and when, therefore, by stepping in and facilitating the raising of that loan the Government of this country is in effect taking part, and a very strong part, with one portion of the people of the Colony against another portion of the people. If the Government of the Transvaal, commanding a great majority of its legislators, is determined upon this exceptional expenditure, if it is determined to saddle this burden upon the back of the minority of the Transvaal, who are the people who will have to pay it, in spite of all their protests, I certainly do not suggest that we should interfere. The Government of the Transvaal are within their right, I do not dispute it for a moment; but they might surely be allowed to find that money for themselves. It is surely not our business to interfere, and to help them to saddle upon the backs of the industrial and the paying community a burden against which they protest, and, as I hope to prove, are perfectly right in protesting.

I object to being called upon to discuss the financial position of a self-governing Colony; but it is not our fault that we have to discuss it; the blame rests with the Government which has dragged us into this business, which we had much better have kept out of. When they ask Parliament to guarantee the loan of a self-governing Colony they compel us to look into the financial position and to discuss it. And when we do look into it, what do we find? I am not going to trouble your Lordships with many figures, but the extent of the financial disaster which has overtaken the Transvaal Colony within the last two years is still so imperfectly realised in this country that I must call attention to a few leading facts. I think that if there could be a valuation of all the assets of the Transvaal similar to valuations which are sometimes made in countries with highly organised statistical departments, like the United States, you would find that the value of all the assets of the country during the last two years had depreciated by something like 50 per cent. I have no doubt the fall has been heaviest in mining properties, but it is not confined to mining properties, it extends to all fixed properties, to lands, to houses, to everything which has permanent and substantial value. The fall in the valuation of the town of Johannesburg, entirely excluding the mining area, has been something enormous. I have been at the pains to take out the figures of the value as shown by the actual market price of seven of the leading industrial and commercial businesses in the Transvaal, and have compared the figures as they stood when His Majesty's present advisers took office, a few days before they initiated their famous labour policy with the first ukase which prevented further importations of coloured labour. I say I have compared the figures at which those businesses stood at that date with their figures last week. I beg to assure the House that I have looked only at concerns of the most solid character, concerns conducted with the most absolute integrity, the assets of which are notorious, and the accounts of which are open at all times to all the world. These are not wild cat or mushroom enterprises at all that I have looked into, and, moreover, at the time where my comparisons begin, December, 1905, they were not subject to any speculative inflation whatever; on the contrary, they were already somewhat depressed, the shadow of coming disaster was upon them, and upon the whole industrial community. The value of those seven businesses in December, 1905, was £33,000,000 and to-day it is £17,000,000. If I had not taken some of the very best and most stable, the least speculative securities, if I had looked at what—if you will pardon the expression—might be called the "ruck" of Transvaal securities, the showing would be immensely worse. Do we realise what these figures mean? These businesses are the central pillars of the industrial and commercial fabric of that country. If in this country of ours the most first-class commercial and industrial businesses had fallen in less than two years by 50 per cent., and if the value of the whole of the industrial securities of this country contained in the Stock Exchange list had fallen by more than that amount, that would be the equivalent of the disaster which has actually befallen our latest Colony. And, my Lords, does it need proving? Will any man of financial experience, or any man of ordinary common sense, maintain that that is a state of affairs under which the Colony should take upon itself a new burden which would be the equivalent of something like a £100,000,000 issue of Consols if it were the case of this country—that it should take upon itself that burden, if it is one which can, by any possibility, be avoided?

Now just one word as to the question of the necessity of this loan. It has been sought to be shown that there were commitments of the previous Government—that there were inheritances from it in the shape of liabilities which the Colonies were bound to meet. It has been stated that the Inter-colonial Council was £600,000 short, and that this sum at least must necessarily be provided. Even admitting it were necessary to raise the £600,000 that is no reason for raising £5,000,000. But even this statement is, I venture to say, somewhat misleading. What is this £600,000 deficit of the Inter-colonial Council? It is a deficit only if the £2,700,000, which is owing to the Inter-colonial Council from the Boer farmers, be wiped out. It is not altogether unreasonable to suppose that the debts for Boer repatriation may not be entirely recoverable, and I admit that they are not entirely recoverable, but it is not at all too much to ask that at least one-fourth of this debt should be repaid; and if only one-fourth of this debt were repaid you would have more than the £600,000 absolutely required.

One other word on this point of interest in order to avoid any possible misunderstanding. The noble Earl has argued at great length that the Transvaal is able to bear the burden of this loan. In one sense I agree with him. I agree that humanly speaking there is no danger that the interest on the loan will not be paid. But that is not the question. It is not a question whether you can by some possibility screw out of that depressed and half-ruined country the amount of the interest. It is a question of whether it is right or reasonable to do it, and, above all, whether it is fair to do it when the whole burden, or almost the whole burden, will fall upon that section of the population which is most strongly protesting against being exposed to the burden at all.

Now, lest I should be supposed to be taking too unfavourable a view of the finances of the Transvaal, let me quote some authorities who are certainly not interested in representing the matter too unfavourably. I have already had occasion to refer to a speech of a leading Tansvaal statesman—I mean the Colonial Secretary—in which he used the following words—

> "Our revenue has been falling off at a frightful rate for many months. The fall is progressive; there is no stoppage to it."

Since then we have had the Budget Speech of the Colonial Treasurer. What was the story he had to tell?—

> "Every single item of revenue which reflects the trade and prosperity of the country is falling off enormously. Railway receipts are down by £600,000, or more than 12 per cent.; customs are down by £200,000 or more than 11 per cent.; Transvaal duties are down £44,000, or more than 35 per cent.; stamp duties are down £30,000, or more than 16 per cent."

I see now on the front Opposition bench the noble Viscount (Viscount St. Aldwyn) under whom it was my honour to serve at the time when he was in charge of the revenues of this country. I think he will be able to appreciate the significance of figures such as these. We used to be in a great fluster in those days if some-great source of revenue declined by even 1 per cent., or 1·5 per cent. or 2 per cent. What would Lord St. Aldwyn say to declines such as those I have just quoted? With their revenue dropping to right and left of them, the Government of the Transvaal, as the Treasurer said—I quote his very words—in those words spoken less than a month ago—

> "had taken steps to curtail expenditure in every direction. They had hoped that these reductions would be sufficient to equalise matters. But their hopes had not been realised. Although enormous reductions were sanctioned, it was found impossible to effect a balance."

The reductions were indeed enormous and most regrettable. Four hundred officials have been retrenched, including some of the very best men in the service of the country. But it has been found desirable, or possible, to refill some of the vacant posts almost immediately by new and not that I am aware by better men, although there may be no reprehensible Anglo-Saxon ring about their names. But that is another story, and not a pleasant one. I am dealing now entirely with the financial point—the point whether it is wise at present to impose fresh burdens upon that country. The point is this, that the Transvaal in the financial year 1906–7, which ended on 30th June last, has for the first time since the war got a deficit. The Colonial Treasurer went out of his way to attribute the deficit to the extravagance of the previous administration. The extravagant and incompetent administration of which I was at one time the unworthy head, which took over the Transvaal after the war a total wreck and in three years set it upon its legs again, never had a balance on the wrong side in any one of the years I was there. It spent several millions out of revenue, over and above loan expenditure, entirely upon railway development and other public works which in every other Colony of the Empire are habitually defrayed out of loans, and handed over a substantial surplus to its successors, out of which this deficit of 1906–7 is now being defrayed, and which after defraying that deficit, still represents a sum which is now quoted, humorously enough, as one of the proofs of the capacity of the Transvaal to carry this new burden which is being imposed upon it. I can confidently leave the financial record of Crown Colony government under Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Lyttelton to the judgment of history. The year 1906–7, with its novel deficit belongs wholly to a period subsequent to their administrations. But I do not wish to indulge further in polemics, recriminations, and speculations as to who is to blame. I look only at the present facts. The facts are these, that, despite great and cruel retrenchments, the Transvaal had a deficit last year, and that the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the present year show a further deficit, which is to be covered, and I believe it will be covered, by further sweeping retrenchments. The point remains that the Transvaal is, to all evidence, in the lowest of low water, and I say that this is not the time when it is fair to the people of that country to encourage them to undertake a burden which, relatively to the resources of the Colony, is a very heavy one.

But that is not, to my mind, the worst part of it. Despite all that has happened, I am a firm believer in the great potential wealth of the Transvaal. If this loan were associated with a sound economic policy I should not cavil at the amount, or even at a larger amount; though I might even then have a word to say as to the allocation of it, which seems to me open to serious criticism. But it is not associated with a sound economic policy. It is calculated to cover up the effects of a thoroughly bad one, and to lead people to further persistence in it. You are spending your money on the superstructure of the economic fabric, while all the time you are undermining its foundations. The prosperity of the Transvaal and South Africa is as dear to me as it can possibly be to any man. For all these objects to which the loan is to be devoted — Land Bank, railways, irrigation, settlements—I have, in my time, to the best of my abilities and my lights, striven hard for years, and I claim, with the generous support of His Majesty's Government and of the great statesman at the Colonial Office under whom I served, that I was instrumental in doing something substantial for the development of the resources of the Transvaal other than mining. But that does not in any way alter the fact that the mining industry is at the present moment, and must be for a long time to come, the mainstay of the prosperity of the country and the feeder of every other form of activity and enterprise. That is the great, the supreme reason why you should do everything in your power to help it, or, at any rate, do nothing to injure it, for if left alone and accorded reasonably fair treatment, it will take very good care of itself. But during the last two years that industry has been subjected to an amount of meddling interference and arbitrary and unsympathetic treatment that would ruin any business in the world, however great and prosperous. And while that course is persisted in, it is my absolute and firm conviction that all money devoted to the development of other resources of the Transvaal will be money wasted. Take any item you like of this present programme. Take the case of the Lydenburg line, to which the noble Earl referred. It is a line which I am well acquainted with, and which in itself I absolutely approve. The line itself will not pay for many years. But I do not object to that. It does not matter, as I have said in similar cases over and over again, provided the agricultural district which it serves is benefited by getting to the market. It would pay indirectly if the produce of the agricultural district were brought to the market. But what market? Anyone who knows anything about the matter knows that, however much the agriculturists of the Transvaal may abuse the Rand, the one idea of them all is to get their produce to the Rand market. But what if that market is a dwindling one, as it is to-day? The bottom is knocked out of your whole policy of developing produce-carrying agricultural lines; and it is the same story in every other direction. I believe the Transvaal Government left to itself would very soon come to that conclusion. Whatever the difficulties in the way, whatever the prejudices with which it starts, whatever the obstacles arising from political and racial causes, it would very soon find out the necessity of taking into account the requirements of the industrial population and not merely perpetually promising to help them, but actually performing some of those promises. This loan is defended on the ground that it is necessary to free the Transvaal from powerful financial interests. If the effect of the loan is to make the Government of the Transvaal think they can disregard financial interests, it will be a fatal gift indeed. The £5,000,000 will soon be spent. The supreme need of the Transvaal for private capital, not £5,000,000 but £50,000,000, will remain. I believe a great many people in this country have got Rand magnates on the brain. The magnates might go on strike, but if the Transvaal Government was pursuing a wise economic policy—a policy which would attract enterprise instead of scaring it away—there are capitalists all over the world who would be only too happy to take their places. For that the restoration of confidence is essential. So long as you do not get that restoration of confidence among the financiers of the world, so long you will see no prosperity in the Transvaal, and you are not justified in putting heavy burdens upon its depressed and half-ruined population. The worst advice which anybody can give to the present rulers of the Transvaal is to lead them to think they can carry matters with a high hand as regards the great mining industry and the great *crux* of the mining industry, the labour problem. Politically they are all-powerful. The industrial community is at their mercy; if they treat it without the slightest consideration, it can only languish and dwindle away, and in its decline it will involve the whole Colony in a common ruin. I will not anticipate any such disastrous results. I believe that common sense will yet prevail, and that people whose interests are so inextricably interwoven will learn somehow to live and work together with mutual consideration. But if that is to be the case, this must be the last attempt of the Government and Parliament of this country to interfere between them or to encourage the present rulers of the Transvaal to persist in a suicidal policy by seeking—vainly seeking—to render them immune from its consequences.

Viscount Milner.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: My Lords, I will not attempt to follow the noble Viscount on the cross benches (Viscount Milner) into a subject which is peculiarly his own—that of the present condition of the Transvaal, the policy of this Government or the reasons, from the point of view of the population of the Transvaal, against this loan. But I may say this—that only a few months ago I was myself in the Transvaal, and that naturally I took the best means in my power to become acquainted with the condition of the country, and I can entirely corroborate what has just fallen from my noble friend as to the painful condition—I can only describe it in that way—of depression which characterised Johannesburg, and the town population generally of the Transvaal. It does not, under such circumstances, seem to be a very advisable policy to increase the indebtedness of any country, and I must say that I heard with very great surprise that His Majesty's Government were intending to guarantee a loan of £5,000,000 to that Colony. All that I could learn when I was in the Transvaal as to the intentions of the present Government of that Colony was that a loan was the last thing they contemplated, that their intention was to pursue the strictest economy, that they found it absolutely necessary to reduce establishments of all kinds, and that they looked to that economy alone, if not for some revival of prosperity, at any rate, to being able to readjust their expenditure with their revenue.

It has been urged in another place that General Botha came to this country with the fixed intention of raising a loan under any circumstances. It may be so—of course, I have no knowledge of that. But I will venture to say that I do not for a moment believe that but for this guarantee General Botha would have carried out his intention of raising a loan, and the argument that was put forward by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies in another place in justification of the guarantee by His Majesty's Government of this particular loan was a very remarkable one. He is reported to have said that General Botha intended to raise a loan, that the circumstances of the Transvaal were such that a loan could only be raised on something like ruinous terms, that the loan would have been so raised, and would have become a trustee security, and that therefore, by guaranteeing this loan, His Majesty's Government were taking a step calculated to protect the interests of trustees and investors in the United Kingdom. That was the most remarkable excuse for guaranteeng a Colonial loan that has ever yet been presented to Parliament.

I wish to address myself not so much to the wisdom of guaranteeing this particular loan, but to the general policy which I fear this guarantee may initiate. Unfortunately I was unable to be in the House when the noble Earl the Secretary for the Colonies was addressing it, but I am informed that he did not dwell—at any rate, to any length—upon that, as it seems to me, very important feature of the present proposal. I have always been taught, ever since I have given any attention whatever to finance, that it was the opinion of those who were the greatest authorities in dealing with the finances of this country that you could not be too cautious in guaranteeing a loan to a self-governing Colony, and for this obvious reason—that when you have entrusted complete control over taxation and expenditure to a self-governing Colony, and are utterly unable to interfere with either of them, the guarantee of a loan in itself tended to encourage extravagance in the self-governing Colony, and the expectation that a Colony would thus be saved from the consequences of its own mismanagement worked far greater evil than could be compensated for by any good which could possibly be done, unless under very exceptional circumstances, by any particular guarantee. Mr. Gladstone, Sir Stafford Northcote, and other financiers, I know, held that opinion very strongly; and so it has happened that during the last fifty years there have been, I believe, only six instances in which this country has guaranteed a loan to a self-governing Colony. I think it was in 1857 there was a guarantee to New Zealand for the purpose of the native war. The Colony was at that time in very difficult circumstances, and was at the beginning of its career. Altogether, the amount of the three loans granted to it was only £3,000,000. Three guarantees on later occasions were given to Canada—one for £3,000,000 for the Inter-colonial railway from Quebec to Halifax—a decidedly Imperial object; another for £300,000 for the purchase of Rupert's

Land, which also, I think I may say, was an Imperial object, and another of £3,600,000 for the Pacific Railway, and improvements connected therewith—another Imperial object.

But what is there Imperial in the objects for which this loan is to be expended? Just let us see what they are. In the first place, there is the institution of a Land and Agricultural Bank. I am sure the noble Earl is very well aware that the Transvaal is not the only self-governing Colony that is considering the initiation of an Agricultural Bank. There is a considerable demand for such a step in the Orange River and Cape Colonies, and I believe the Governments of both Colonies have had the matter under consideration. Why should the Transvaal Government be favoured in this respect more than Cape Colony or Natal? Are the finances of the Government of the Transvaal very much worse than those of Cape Colony or Natal? The noble Viscount (Viscount Milner) has quoted from the Budget speech of the Finance Minister of the Transvaal. I have had the opportunity of reading the Budget speeches of the Finance Ministers of the Cape Colony and of Natal, and I am afraid that those speeches presented quite as gloomy a prospect as that set forth by the Finance Minister of the Transvaal.

Then another part of the loan is to be devoted to the construction of railways, public works, irrigation, agricultural settlement, and development. Irrigation, public works, settlement and development are wanted in every part of South Africa as well as in the Transvaal. Why is the Transvaal to be especially favoured? As for the railways, the particular railways which this loan is intended to further are the purchase of the railway from Fourteen Streams to Klerksdorp, and the improvement of the railway from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay. If it be the case, as I think it may very possibly be, that the Intercolonial arrangements for the management of the railways will before long be put an end to, the result will be that the Transvaal will have a competing line to Cape Town through its own territory and the territory of the Cape Colony by this very line from Klerksdorp to Fourteen Streams in competition with the railways of the Orange River Colony, and probably very much to their detriment. As to the line from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay, the fact is this. No doubt that line is a very valuable means of communication, and is much in need of improvements, but there is another line from Pretoria to Durban, through Natal, on which Natal has quite recently spent very large sums, which also requires considerable improvement, and which is in direct competition with the line from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay. Why are you going to guarantee a loan to the Transvaal for improving their line to Delagoa Bay, a foreign seaport, while you are not willing to do anything—and I do not suggest for a moment that you should do anything—to help Natal in improving their line from Pretoria to Durban, an English port, with which the Transvaal line is in direct competition? I am not finding fault with the expenditure of this money by the Transvaal, I am only urging that the expenditure is by no means an Imperial necessity; it is a local necessity. It is a very good thing, I dare say, for the Transvaal, but it is expenditure to be incurred either on objects equally desired and desirable in other parts of South Africa, or in direct competition with the other Colonies of South Africa who are promoting similar objects; and I contend that this circumstance is a very grave objection to the Imperial guarantee of the present loan.

Just look what it lays us open to in all parts of the world. Are you going, if any self-governing Colony applies to you for a guarantee for similar objects, to give an Imperial guarantee for these loans? If not, what sort of feeling will you arouse in other Colonies—which may have equal need of similar assistance—if you refuse to them what you have given to the Transvaal? Why is the Transvaal entitled to this specially favourable treatment? Only three years ago, at the close of the War, while the Transvaal was a Crown Colony, we guaranteed £35,000,000 to set the Transvaal on its legs. That was a very necessary thing, but it was an act of the greatest generosity to the Transvaal and its people; and to put that fact forward, as it has been put forward, as a reason for guaranteeing this further loan is to embark on a most dangerous argument. Because, if we are to go on referring to the guarantee of past loans as a reason for guaranteeing further loans, then I am afraid that the anticipation of my noble friend on the cross benches (Lord Milner) will be fulfilled, and that when the Transvaal purse is empty again, the Transvaal Government will again come to the Imperial Government for similar assistance. I contend that in this policy, for which, so far as I can see, there are really no sufficient grounds at all, His Majesty's Government have set a very dangerous example to the self-governing Colonies of the Empire. I trust that before this debate is concluded we may hear something from the Government to prove that they recognise that anything like a regular system of guaranteeing loans to the self-governing Colonies is a most dangerous proceeding on the part of this country, as regards the liabilities of our taxpayers, and very bad for the Colonies themselves, as encouraging them in extravagance at our cost; and that under these circumstances there is every reason for the Government of this country to pause before they impose further liabilities of that kind on the taxpayers of this country.

LORD LOVAT: I only wish to say a very few words on one aspect of this question, and that is on behalf of the settlers. The responsibility to the settlers is a responsibility which lies equally on both sides of the House. I have frequently wearied your Lordships by advocating in this House the cause of the settlers. They have been placed on the soil during the last four years, and they are men who have fought against the conditions arising from the nature of the land and the soil, and from the fact of their going to a country which was unknown to them. And I think, in connection with this loan, their position requires to be closely studied.

My Lords, I would like just to go back for a moment to ask you to compare the attitude of His Majesty's Government in granting a loan to the Transvaal in August, 1906, with the character of the loan which is to be granted in August, 1907. In 1906 Lord Selborne, speaking as the mouthpiece of His Majesty's Government, and by their instructions, issued a letter of which I would ask the leave of your Lordships to read a paragraph. Lord Selborne said—

> "In respect of land settlement, the Government feel that they have a special obligation to those who became settlers during the period when they have been directly responsible for the Governments of the two Colonies, and it is a matter in which the United Kingdom takes a great interest. They would therefore like to see land settlement placed under a Board appointed by themselves and altogether divorced from politics, and to that Board they would like to see handed over the responsibility for all existing settlements, for the administration of the assets derived from the £2,500,000 guaranteed loan which has been devoted to the subject of land settlement and for the expenditure of the further sum of £1,500,000 which His Majesty's Government suggest should be devoted to this purpose from the new loan."

This was the policy of the Government exactly a year ago—a £4,000,000 loan, of which £1,500,000 was to be used for land settlement in South Africa. These were the terms upon which His Majesty's Government at that time were prepared to guarantee this loan. What are the terms to-day? The noble Lord the Minister for the Colonies has stated to your Lordships the terms of the proposed loan, and so far as the settlers are concerned there is to be spent out of this loan the magnificent sum of £85,000, of which, £40,000 is a natural debt to the land settlers, £18,000 is a claim which the land settlers can make with respect of what they have not been paid, and some £10,000 has to go to the Orange River Colony. £68,000, thereforce, of this is already allocated, leaving the magnificent sum of £17,000 which is all that is got out of this loan of £5,000,000 for the settlers of this country.

I must say a word on the subject of "bargains," because the subject has been so often raised in another place that really one believes there must have been some bargain. If there is a question, it has either been a bargain in which the Chinese have come prominently forward, or it has been the worst bargain that has ever been struck. This proposition that I have quoted—the £4,000,000 proposition—was brought forward last year. The leaders of the Boers were asked their opinion of it, and declined to accept it. They came for another loan this year, and presumably it would have been possible to get some terms for the settlers out of them, because, as the noble Lord (Viscount St. Aldwyn) who speaks with such authority on subjects of finance, has stated, it would have been impossible otherwise for them to have raised this loan. And yet here it is—this miserable £85,000 which is all that is given to the Land Settlement Board to conduct the affairs of these wretched settlers.

Lord Elgin, in a statement of 14th November of last year, stated that he certainly hoped and intended that sufficient sums would be available to carry on the work of the Imperial Board. Are there sufficient sums? We have seen that the sums that these men would get would come from the Repatriation Loan and the hire of the land themselves, and were to come, in the second place, from the Inter-colonial Council. With an Intercolonial Council which is bankrupt, how much money is going to come from them, and from these men, who have undoubtedly had their land originally over-valued, who took it under circumstances under which they paid for their stock and implements at enormously enhanced prices—what chance have we got of any sufficient return from them to make the Imperial loan a going concern? May I take an exact parallel between the men who started under our lands settlement scheme and those who were under the *ægis* of the Boer Government? In a statement made two days ago by General Botha he said—these are his exact words according to the report which has come over to this country—"The Goverment intend"—that is the Transvaal Government—"to put an end to the repatriation debt"—a debt of £2,719,000, That debt is to be put an end to. Have we heard anything said here, or have we heard of any possibility, of putting an end to the debt of these settlers, who started, after all, on the land on no better terms than the repatriation Boers did on returning to their land? Have we heard anything to the effect even that their land was going to be re-valued in order to give them a chance? I do not, any more than Lord Milner, object to the fact that an end is to be made of the debt of the Boers on the Repatriation Loan. They undoubtedly paid more for their oxen, more for their implements, and found it more expensive to live in every way than before, and were saddled with many difficulties which were in no way their own fault. But is not the condition of the settler absolutely similar? Is there any fact to show that His Majesty's Government take the very least interest in what the fate of these men is eventually going to be? There has been, I admit, a Land Settlement Board appointed for a term of five years, but Land Settlement Boards are surely a perfect farce unless they have some money to administer in order to look after the welfare of these settlers.

I would like to ask a question or two of the Colonial Secretary. I admit I do not very much expect an answer, because unfortunately I am not in the habit of getting answers to any of the conundrums which from time to time I feel it my duty to put to the Government. Still, I put forward these questions which I put forward exactly a year ago in identical terms. I put them forward in the hope that perhaps by now some solution may have been arrived at. I would ask the noble Lord first, if he could give me some intimation as to the income the Land Settlement Board will have; and I would ask him in the second place whether there is any intention in future, in view of General Botha's expressed intention of practically abolishing the Repatriation Loan, of estimating or re-valuing the land of the settlers who hold under practically identical terms? I would ask the noble Lord further about this £500,000 which, after all, is the property of the Land Settlement Board in South Africa. Three millions was voted for land settlement, but only £2,500,000 has been expended, leaving a residue of £500,000, which should be the property of the Land Settlement Board for administration and to carry on the work. I would like to press those questions because, after all, they turn on one central question, and that is, are His Majesty's Government going to give equally fair terms to settlers under the Land Settlement Board as the Boers are going to get from their own Government at the present moment? The settlers—and I have had many opportunities of knowing this in the numerous visits I have paid to South Africa, and I also know from the numerous letters I have from them—wonder more than at anything else at the apparent hypocrisy of the Government in announcing as a fact that they are going to give them a Land Board, while they give no money to carry out what should be done by that Board. They say that the Government have abandoned their policy of land settlement, and that now they have definitely abandoned the settlers themselves.

* THE EARL OF **ELGIN**: While they are fresh in my head, my Lords, I will try to answer the questions which have been put to me by the noble Lord opposite (Lord Lovat). I think he is under some misapprehension with regard to the comparison he drew between the £4,000,000 mentioned in Lord Selborne's letter of last year and the £83,000 which I referred to as coming out of the assets of the Inter-colonial Council. The £4,000,000 was a proposition which was put before the Colony, and not accepted, and it therefore died a natural death. The £83,000 I only drew attention to because I wished to show that the sum which was really due from the Inter-colonial Council to the Land Board should be paid—I did not say that that is the whole amount which is available for land settlement purposes. The noble Lord must be quite well aware that the Letters Patent laid down quite distinctly what property it was intended to hand over to the Land Settlement Board for the time of their existence, and so far as I know there has been no deviation from that policy. But with regard to the sum of £83,000, that is a sum which ought to be paid by the Inter-colonial Council to the Board and must be paid in fact if the Land Settlement Board is to carry on its work, and I hope will be paid. There were some other questions which the noble Lord put, and I am sorry to hear that he never gets any answers, because I endeavour to give him answers as far as I am concerned. He asked me on the spur of the moment to tell him the income of the Land Settlement Board and other details, but I am glad that he summed up his questions by asking a further question which he called a simple one—whether the Government were prepared to give equally fair terms to the settlers as the Boers were prepared to give to their friends. The Government dealt with the land settlement question in the Constitution, and the noble Lord knows that, as I have said, the Government then handed over to the Land Settlement Board all the funds at our disposal. We had nothing more to do with the matter. After the term of the Land Settlement Board's existence the question of land settlement will have passed into another phase, which is described in the Letters Patent. But I believe—I speak, as I say, without any previous notice, but I believe, from some of the facts which I have had put before me previously, that one of the difficulties arising with regard to the whole question of funds is, not only the repatriation loans, but the re-valuations which have been forced upon the Government in the case of the settlers also. That, I believe, is the case, but I would not like to be taken, without further inquiry, as giving any more specific answer.

I really do not think it would serve any useful purpose if I attempted to follow, or reply in any way to, the speech of the noble Viscount on the cross benches (Viscount Milner). The noble Viscount approaches this matter from an entirely different standpoint from that of the Government. He is responsible, giving him all the credit which he claims, for the good work which he has administered in South Africa; and I may remind him perhaps that in recent papers which have been published a statement appeared showing how great and extensive that work was. We are perfectly willing to recognise the good work which has been done since the War by the Crown Colony Government, but there are very many things, if this was the proper time to go into them, which we should have to criticise, and I must not be taken to accept the statement which the noble Viscount has made as being in any sense a fair prophecy of the future of the country.

With reference to the noble Viscount opposite (Viscount St. Aldwyn) I should just like to say this. We entirely recognise that it would be a dangerous thing to adopt any general policy of guaranteeing loans to self-governing Colonies, and nothing is further from our intention. The noble Viscount said that he was not in the House when I was speaking before, but if I made anything clear, I attempted, at any rate, to make clear this: that we treat this matter entirely as justified by the exceptional circumstances of the case. It is not, I hope, probable that any other Colony will come before us to seek help in its recovery from such a war as that which devastated South Africa; and I endeavoured to show that this loan of £5,000,000 was intended, not as a new thing, not as establishing any new system or practice, but rather as a matter thrust upon us in order to bring to completion the work which the late Government undertook, and for which it gave South Africa what I quite agree with the noble Viscount was the liberal and generous assistance of £35,000,000. No doubt that was given to a Crown Colony, and that is, of course, one of the exceptional circumstances of the case. But, my Lords, I think under the whole circumstances of the case that we were justified in considering that this was a singular instance in which we might depart from the sound rule which the noble Viscount laid down, and give to the new Government of a new self-governing Colony the assistance which this guarantee affords. I have now answered the noble Viscount as far as I am capable of doing, and I hope that the Bill may now be passed.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Bill read 2ª accordingly. Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª and passed.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

Read 2ª (according to order). Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bills read 3ª, and passed.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Commons' Amendments to Lords Amendments considered (according to order), and agreed to.

The Earl of Elgin.

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

Order of the day for Second Reading read.

Lord DENMAN: This is a Treasury Bill which, I think, I am right in saying is generally formally moved and not debated at any length in your Lordships' House; but I would like to call the attention of the House to the fact that the sum taken for the purpose of public loans this year is smaller than that of previous years, because it has been found necessary to place restrictions upon the advancing of loans by the Treasury to local authorities; and also it is noteworthy perhaps this year for two other exceptional circumstances, in that power is taken in this Bill for the loan of £2,000,000 for the Nigerian Railway and for the sum of £800,000 advanced to Jamaica. I am desired by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who is concerned with both of these particular measures, to say that if any noble Lord desires any information on these particular subjects he will be very glad to afford it. I do not think there is anything else of a noteworthy character in this Bill, and I beg to move that it be now read a second time.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª." (*Lord Denman.*)

***Viscount St. ALDWYN**: The only two points I would wish to refer to in this Bill are the two Colonial loans to which the noble Lord, Lord Denman, has just alluded. The loan to Jamaica is a proposition with which, I think, all your Lordships will sympathise. The sufferings of Jamaica were very severe, and that the Mother Country should come to the help of the Colony in such a case is a very sound proposal. As to the Nigerian Railway, I think we are entitled to some little explanation from the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It is rather curious that the proposal should come from noble Lords and right hon. Gentlemen who bitterly opposed the Uganda Railway not very long ago. The Uganda Railway is likely to turn out a very considerable success, and I hope the Nigerian Railway will be equally fortunate. I understand that this line, unlike the Uganda line, is to be constructed as a light railway in a very cheap manner. That might be a cheap policy at first, but I venture to doubt if it is a sound policy, assuming, of course, that you have a complete survey of the line, and know exactly the possible gradients which engineers can arrange in the country through which it has to be taken. The traffic, which, of course, will be small at first, will increase in the future, but there is a good deal of work in the construction of a line which had better be made at first than by waiting for a future opportunity, and I am not quite sure the Government have not gone to the opposite extreme in this proposal. I have nothing to say against the principle of either loan. I do not doubt that opening up Nigeria in the manner proposed will stimulate the growth of cotton and an interest in this country in one of our possessions which will be of great advantage both to Nigeria and to the United Kingdom, and I wish every success to the undertaking. I am not quite sure there is any precedent for placing two such important proposals in the Public Works Loans Bill; that is another point on which I should like some information to be given. This Bill is generally a Bill for providing funds solely for loans to municipalities in the United Kingdom, and therefore passes through both Houses with very little comment. These are two proposals of a very different and of a very important nature, and it is quite conceivable that similar proposals in a Bill of this kind may be made to Parliament some day to which objection may be taken, and which it may be very difficult properly to deal with. I hope it may not be made a regular practice when loans of this sort are intended to be given.

*THE EARL OF ELGIN: I was not prepared to make a very detailed statement on this subject. I knew, of course, that the Bill was coming up, but I did not know that the noble Viscount opposite would call attention to it. With regard to the last point he mentioned, of course that is a matter rather for the Treasury than for me. I cannot very well discuss the propriety of extending the provisions of the Public Works Loans Bill to these cases of the Colonies, but I think that they are exceptional and that the two cases which are now before the House show that they are exceptional. For instance, the case of Jamacia, I think everyone will admit, is exceptional, and after what the noble Lord has said I do not imagine I need dilate on that part of the subject. It was a satisfaction to His Majesty's Government to be able in this way to meet a calamity, or to help to meet a calamity, which had befallen one of the most ancient of our Colonies, and we trust not only that it will restore the prosperity of the Colony, but that we shall be able to be recouped of the sum which we advance under this Bill. With regard to the Nigerian Railway, I think I can, even on the spur of the moment, give some explanation which may perhaps satisfy the noble Viscount. It is quite true that the Uganda Railway was the subject of very considerable criticism in former times, but in a statement which I made to the House not very long ago—perhaps the noble Marquess opposite will remember—I gave a return for the three years showing how that railway was recovering its position or making its position in the matter of receipts. No doubt that does not mean that it is yet paying the capital cost, and that is a matter which has to be borne in mind in saying that it is now becoming a success; but for my part I do not hesitate to say that I believe there is a great future before the Uganda Railway and its extensions in those districts. With regard to the Nigerian Railway, the matter stands in this way. Not so many years ago Nigeria was a pathless wilderness. That we have been able to establish our dominion in that country is principally due to that great pioneer of civilisation, Sir Frederick Lugard, whose operations had necessarily to be conducted on foot, and every pound of whose stores had to be transported on the heads of natives, and that is the condition of the country largely to this time. Two years ago Sir F. Lugard put forward schemes in anticipation of a railway running through his province, but these schemes had to be very carefully considered at home, and before a decision could be come to in regard to them it was necessary for him to bring his long service to an end; and his place was supplied by one who may be called the pioneer of railways, Sir Percy Girouard. The scheme now before your Lordships is in part a pioneer railway, but only in part. The portion of the Nigerian Railway in respect of which £2,000,000 sterling are to be advanced under this Bill is really to be in two sections. One section, which was in Sir Frederick Lugard's mind, is to run from Baro on the Niger, through Zungeru to Kano and Zaria, all in Northern Nigeria. That is to be constructed as a pioneer line; that is to say, though it was surveyed two years ago, though it follows a proper survey, and will be constructed with gradients and otherwise so as to suit a fully constructed line in the future, it will in the first instance be constructed with the least possible expenditure, with no stations, signals, and so forth which are scarcely necessary for a line that will at most run two trains a day. But that is only part of the scheme. We have also another line of railway, which has already proceeded a considerable way from Lagos to Jebba on the Niger, and this scheme provides funds for the extension of that line also. I am not quite sure whether the £2,000,000 under this Bill will absolutely meet the whole cost, but of course it will take some years fully to complete the construction of the scheme, which, when it is fully completed will be not only the line of Sir Frederick Lugard from Baro northwards, but also the line from Lagos to Jebba on the Niger, where it will cross by a bridge and couple up with the line through Zungeru. The pioneer line is estimated to cost £3,000 a mile, and the other line is being constructed at something like £6,000 a mile. It has now reached practically the boundary of Southern Nigeria, and is about to pass into the district of Northern Nigeria, which is south of the Niger River. There is another financial consideration I ought to mention. The Government of Southern Nigeria at present contributes to the assistance of Northern Nigeria, to which there is a large Imperial grant-in-aid, a grant in aid on its own account of some £75,000, out of which it is proposed to meet the interest on this sum of £2,000,000. Eventually the Southern Nigerian Government will replace the advances made under this Bill by a loan, but so far as the interest is concerned the Southern Nigerian Government will be relieved of the same proportion of the £75,000 contributed to the expenses of Northern Nigeria as is accounted for by the interest on the loan. We think that in the particular circumstances of this country that is a fair arrangement. There can be no doubt that eventually Nigeria, Northern and Southern, must become one large Colony from the sea to the interior, and when that is so these railways will one and all become the property of the Government of the Province as a whole. We have great expectations from this side of Africa as well as from the East. Those who are experts in Lancashire have great expectations of the future of cotton-growing in Nigeria, where it is no new industry, as there are traces of a considerable trade which existed in days gone by, and we think that these railways will not only diminish the expenses of government, increase the opportunities of spreading civilisation, and facilitate the process of administration, but in the not far distant future may afford a very wide field for contributions towards that great staple on which so much of the trade of this country depends.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly. Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3^a and passed.

SMALL SHOPS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read, and discharged.

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS BILL; EVICTED TENANTS (IRELAND) BILL.

Report from the Committee of the reason to be offered to the Commons for the Lords disagreeing to one of their amendments, read, and agreed to; and a Message sent to the Commons to return the Bill with the Lords Amendments to the Commons Amendments and the reason for disagreeing to one of the Commons Amendments.

EVICTED TENANTS (IRELAND) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendment made by the Lords to the Amendment on which the Lords do not insist agreed to; with the Amendments made by the Lords to the Amendment made by the Commons, and the consequential amendment made by the Lords to the Bill, agreed to.

CABS AND STAGE CARRIAGES (LONDON) BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments made by the Lords to the Amendment made by the Commons agreed to.

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS BILL.

Returned from the Commons with several of the Lords Amendments agreed to; one of the Lords Amendments agreed to, with an Amendment; and one of the Amendments made by the Lords, disagreed to; but an Amendment proposed in lieu thereof.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: In regard to the Small Holdings Bill there are only two points of difference outstanding between the two Houses. The first of the two points is this. Your Lordships, in Clause 21, page 10, line 20, inserted a proviso that "no dwelling-house shall be erected for occupation upon any allotment of less than three acres." The Commons agreed to that Amendment, but proposed to leave out "three acres" and insert "one acre." That is the first point which arises between your Lordships.

EARL CARRINGTON: I beg to move that the House agree to the Commons Amendment leaving out "three acres" and substituting "one acre."

Moved, "That this House doth agree with the Commons in the said Amendment.

***VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN**: I cannot say that I like the change, but, on the other hand, the Amendment is better than the Bill as it stood originally, and at this stage of the proceedings I imagine that your Lordships will desire to agree to it.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: The second and only remaining difference between the two Houses is as follows. Your Lordships will recollect that on the First Schedule, page 25, line 40, the noble Viscount, Lord St. Aldwyn, moved an Amendment. I do not know that I need read it to your Lordships, but it was an Amendment providing that any matter of difference before the commencement of the tenancy by compulsory hiring should, on the application of one of the parties, be referred to an arbitrator with the proviso that the Board might discriminate as to what was the extra cost involved in going to arbitration. The Commons disagree to that Amendment, but propose to insert in lieu thereof other words on the First Schedule, page 25, line 17, providing that if the land hired is in the occupation of a tenant he may, by notice in writing to the council before the termination of his tenancy, require any claim by him under the Agricultural Holdings Acts, 1883 to 1906, to be referred to an arbitrator under those Acts, and that in such a case those claims shall be determined by arbitration under those Acts and not by valuation under this Act. That is the second and only remaining point of difference between the two Houses.

EARL CARRINGTON: I beg to move that this House do not insist on the Amendment to the First Schedule, page 25, line 40, and agrees with the Commons in their Amendment to the First Schedule page 25, line 17, to insert certain words.

Moved, "That this House do not insist on the said Amendment."

***VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN**: After what passed on this matter this evening I did not anticipate that His Majesty's Government would agree with my Motion, but I own that I did expect that they would have gone somewhat further than they did in the direction of allowing arbitration in certain cases in the interest of the tenant. That point was very much pressed upon your Lordships, and, I think, quite rightly pressed by my noble friend Lord Onslow, who has taken such a very active part in the matter of small holdings generally. I think that your Lordships felt that the interests of the tenant had been much neglected in the past proceedings on this Bill, and that the matter which my noble friend and myself brought to the notice of the noble Lord the President of the Board of Agriculture, was one that well deserved the consideration of the Government and required an Amendment in the interests of the larger tenant farmers whose land may be taken under this Bill. The noble Lord on the Woolsack rather damped our expectations by saying that the Amendment which His Majesty's Government were prepared to accept did not extend to the matter of severance. I understand that the Solicitor-General has explained in another place that if a yearly tenant had to give up his whole farm, practically there would be no claim for severance by way of compensation to him, and, if he remained as tenant of part of the holding compensation would practically be settled under the provisions of the Bill by a change in the rent which he would pay. I wish that the Amendment which has been accepted by His Majesty's Government had gone somewhat further, but I think in the interest of the tenant it is better than nothing, and I imagine that your Lordships will not desire to insist on the Amendment which was placed in the Bill, but will accept what is proposed as being certainly an improvement on the Bill as it originally stood.

LORD CLINTON said the noble Viscount who had just spoken had accepted this Amendment as in some way a concession to the tenant farmer, but he (Lord Clinton) rather doubted whether it was a concession at all. Was it not the case that a tenant farmer at the present moment could claim compensation by arbitration for all improvements on his land? Whatever the Amendment said, in this Bill a sitting tenant at present was entitled to compensation for all his improvements under the Agricultural Holdings Act. He hardly thought the Bill would have altered that without repealing the Agricultural Holdings Act. Might he ask the Lord Chancellor to tell the House whether that was not the case?

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: The noble Lord has asked me off-hand, and I will tell him off-hand what I think. I think it is undoubtedly true that a tenant under the Agricultural Holdings Act would be entitled to compensation by arbitration, but that is where a question arises between him and his landlord or the incoming tenant. Now the Bill comes in and comes down upon the transaction and interposes from the outset. My recollection and belief is that the arbitration clause in the Agricultural Holdings Act does not apply to the case where the tenancy is terminated otherwise than between the landlord and the tenant, but undoubtedly compensation would in this case and in any case be payable under the Bill.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Moved, "That this House do agree with the Commons in their proposed Amendment to the First Schedule, page 25, line 17, to insert the words, 'Provided that if the land hired is in the occupation of a tenant he may, by notice in writing served on a council before the termination of his tenancy, require that any claim by him against the council shall be determined by arbitration under the Agricultural Holdings Acts, 1883 to 1906, and not by valuation under this Act.'"

On Question, Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Eleven o'clock till To-morrow, Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 27th August, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PETITIONS.

CONGO FREE STATE.

Petition from Manchester, for protection of the native races; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Stirling, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

POSTAL AGREEMENT (BULGARIA).

Copy presented, of Postal Agreement for an exchange of Postal and Telegraph Money Orders between the Post Office of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Bulgaria [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MERCANTILE MARINE.

Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the Supply and Training of Boy Seamen for the Mercantile Marine. Vol. I., Report. Vol. II, Minutes of Evidence and Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING, 1906.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th August; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 348.]

COAL TABLES, 1906.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th August; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 349.]

IRON AND STEEL, 1906.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th August; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 350.]

EXPORTS TO CHINA AND SOUTH AMERICA.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th August; *Mr. Lloyd-George*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 351.]

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their Proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 352.]

PILOTAGE.

Copy presented, of Abstract of Returns relating to Pilots and Pilotage in the United Kingdom (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 221 of Session 1906) as furnished by the various Pilotage Authorities [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 353.]

HARWICH HARBOUR.

Copy presented, of Abstract of the Accounts of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Harwich Harbour Conservancy Board from the time of their incorporation down to and inclusive of the 31st March, 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 354.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3909 to 3916 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TREATY SERIES (No. 26, 1907).

Copy presented, of Protocol for the Accession of Non-Signatory Powers to the Convention of 29th July 1899, for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, 14th June, 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (STATISTICAL ABSTRACT).

Copy presented, of Statistical Abstract relating to British India from 1896–7 to 1905–6. Forty-first Number [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Copy presented, of Additional and Amending General Orders for the Regulation of Proceedings under and in pursuance of The Private Legislation Procedure

(Scotland) Act, 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 355.]

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL.)

Copy presented, of Colonial Report, No. 535 (Malta, Report for 1906–7) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1888.

Copy presented, of Orders made by the County Councils of Carnarvon and Somerset, under Section 57 of the Act, as confirmed by the Local Government Board [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

Copy presented, of Statement of Modification permitted by the Local Government Board to be made in the London (Providence Place, Poplar) Improvement Scheme, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

MOTOR CAR ACTS.

Copy presented, of Regulations made under the Acts: I. Ware; II. London; III. Smethwick [by Act]: to lie upon the Table.

NAVY (HEALTH).

Copy presented, of Statistical Report of the Health of the Navy for the year 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 356.]

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table:—List of the Bills, Reports, Estimates, and Accounts and Papers printed by order of the House, and of Papers presented by Command, Session 1907, with a General Alphabetical Index thereto, 28th Parliament, Second Session, 7th Edward VII., 12th February, 1907, to 28th August, 1907; to be printed. [No. 357.]

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Public Bills (Allocation of Time),—Return relative thereto [ordered 26th August; *Mr. Jowett*]; to be printed. [No. 358.]

STEAMSHIP SUBSIDIES.

Order [16th May] for a Return relative thereto read and discharged; and instead thereof:—

STEAMSHIP SUBSIDIES.

Return ordered, "of all sums payable out of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom in the year 1906–7 in respect of Steamship Subsidies for Foreign and Colonial Services in the following form, viz.:—

Name of Service.	Date of commencement of Contract.	Contract terminable.	Particulars of Service.	Total Subsidy.	Sums to be set off against gross Subsidy in respect of contributions from Colonies, &c., Sea Postage for Mails despatched by Colonies and Foreign Countries, &c.	Net Charge on Exchequer.	Remarks.

—(*Mr. Harold Cox.*)

TRANSVAAL COLONY (CIVIL SERVANTS DISMISSED.)

Address for "Return showing the names, posts, and salaries of the Civil Servants who have been or may be retrenched or discharged from the Transvaal service from the 1st day of May to the 1st day of October, 1907."—(*Mr. Wedgwood.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Irish Teachers' Certificates.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that Irish teachers who spent two years in training before 1898, and received their certificate in Ireland, are not recognised as certificated teachers in England; and whether, seeing that Irish teachers who have been trained since 1898, and who have passed their qualifying examination, are recognised as certificated teachers, will he take steps to put these older teachers in an equally good position with their juniors.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The hon. Member is not quite correct in stating that Irish teachers who were trained before 1898 are not recognised as certificated teachers in England. These teachers are eligible for recognition provided they are certificated in the first class by the Irish Commissioners of National Education. I fear that, in justice to the Irish teachers who were examined under the revised system and to English teachers, I can hold out no hope of this condition being modified or relaxed.

Inland Revenue Claims Branch.

SIR WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will give instructions to the Claims Branch of the Inland Revenue to grant facilities to individual claimants in all cases of difficulty as to the evidence which the Board may require to prove the ownership of income derived from investments standing in names other than their own.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) As I stated in a reply to the hon. Member printed with the Votes for the 3rd July, the nature of the document required as evidence cannot be prescribed in general terms, but must depend upon the particular circumstances of each case, which, if there be any doubt or difficulty as to what is required, should be represented to the Board of Inland Revenue, who will then be ready to give any assistance in their power.

SIR WILLIAM BULL: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will take such steps as are in his power to effect some immediate reform in the Claims Branch of the Inland Revenue, so as to expedite the settlement of outstanding claims, many of which have been shelved for six months without having been attended to in any way.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) On the general question of the delay in dealing with repayment claims, I fear I cannot add anything to the replies which I gave to Questions by the noble Lord the Member for Marylebone on the 6th instant, and by the hon. Member for the Rye Division on the 22nd instant † If, however, the hon. Member will give particulars of any claim which has "been shelved for six months without having been attended to in any way," I will have the case inquired into.

Norwegian Whaling Factories.

MR. SUTHERLAND (Elgin Burghs): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he has any official information showing that the Norwegian Government has prohibited the continuance and the setting up of whaling factories on the coast of Norway; and, if so, for what reason that course was adopted.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) By a law which came into force in 1904 the slaughter of whales is forbidden off the coast of certain Norwegian provinces. It is understood that the object of this law is to protect the fin-whale, on the ground that it is of use to fishermen engaged in the cod-fishing industry, through its indicating the position of shoals of fish.

East Indian Railway.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for India how many wagons and engines have been ordered out of the £800,000 taken for that purpose from the gold currency reserve, and how many the East Indian Railway have bought out of the one and a-half million pounds raised by that company in debentures.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The decision to appropriate a portion of the profits on the coinage of silver to the provision of rolling stock for railways enabled the Secretary of State to order, in addition to what had previously been ordered, 1,450 open coal wagons and 4,242 covered wagons, but no engines, at a cost of £930,000. In regard to the East Indian Railway Company, no further sum was available for the purchase of rolling stock in consequence of the recent issue of debenture stock. The amount obtained by this issue is taken in reduction of the company's overdrafts, the total advanced to the company by the Secretary of State amounting to a considerably larger sum.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxix., 1830. clxxxi., 1082–3.

Deaths from Plague in India.

Mr. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the deaths from plague in the last eight years, amounting to 5,000,000 in all, work out to an average of 2·135 per 1,000 per year; and, if so, whether the constant and greater mortality from malaria will also be referred to a commission of experts should such be appointed.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) As I explained in my Answer to a Question of the hon. Member on the 20th August, any such calculation of a ratio of plague deaths to the total population of India may be misleading, and is not necessarily a true index of the prevalence of plague in comparison with other diseases. The Government of India are aware of the great annual mortality from malarial complaints, and have recently undertaken an inquiry into the etiology of fevers of that class prevalent in the Bengal Dooars. Plague and malaria present different problems, which must be investigated separately.

Ceylon Tea and Rubber Districts.

Mr. REES: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the sanction will be accorded at an early date for the Manaar Railway and the two local lines considered necessary for opening up tea and rubber districts in Ceylon.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The first step of course is the surveying of these lines, and this has been put in hand. The Secretary of State will of course reserve his final decision in each case until the results of the surveys are before him.

Taxes on Commercial Travellers in South Africa.

Mr. MILDMAY (Devon, Totnes): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Natal Government proposes to introduce a Bill whereby commercial travellers representing British manufacturers will be taxed £25 per annum for every firm represented by them; and whether, seeing that such legislation would entirely exclude from Natal four-fifths of the travellers who thus earn a living in that Colony, the Colonial Office can make such representations as may be necessary in their interests.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Secretary of State is aware of the proposed legislation, and has received a number of representations that it will be seriously prejudicial to British trade. He has thought it right to bring these representations to the notice of the Governor of Natal by telegram.

Natal Field Force and the Mandhlakazi Tribe.

Mr. BYLES (Salford, N.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the recent questions in the Natal Parliament and to the replies of the Prime Minister, stating that the Natal Field Force had been employed in destroying 200 huts belonging to the Natives of the Mandhlakazi tribe, the people being dissatisfied with the chief appointed by the Governor; and, having regard to the circumstances in which Zululand was handed over to Natal, can he say what are the reasons which have led to the determined refusal of the tribe to recognise the chief referred to, and on account of which the inhabitants are being subjected to this enforced migration.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Secretary of State is aware of the matters referred to by the hon. Member. According to accounts from Natal, the action of the Natal Government was explained by the Prime Minister as being due to continued and persistent defiance of the Governor's order by a section of the tribe which had refused to recognise the chief appointed by the Governor in 1905, after a very careful inquiry as to the rights of those claiming the succession.

Petitions upon the Sugar Convention.

Sir GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will give the list of representations and petitions from public and private bodies throughout the Empire upon the Sugar Convention which have arrived since the previous petitions and representations were published.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) Since the publication of Cd. 3565, representations have been received from the following:—Invercargill (New Zealand) Chamber of Commerce; Newcastle (New South Wales) Chamber of Commerce; Nevis Agricultural and Commercial Society; Cairns (North Queensland) Chamber of Commerce; Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture (Telegraphic report printed in Cd. 3565); Legislative Council of Jamaica; Jamaica Agricultural Society; Council of Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange; Northside Sugar Planters' Association; Townsville Chamber of Commerce, Queensland; Barbados Agricultural Society; Barbados House of Assembly; Australian Sugar Producers' Association. The representation from the last-named Association has been received since the date on which the former Question of the hon. Member on this subject was answered.

Board of Trade and Railway Stock.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state what was the total market value of the stock of the railways under the control of the Board of Trade upon 1st August, 1905, and the same day in 1907; and what was the average dividend paid on the ordinary stock of the railways of the United Kingdom for the first half-year in 1905 and 1907, respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I have no official information as to the market value of all the railway stocks of the United Kingdom, and to obtain such particulars would entail a very elaborate and difficult inquiry. As regards the second part of the Question, complete half-yearly accounts for all the railways are not yet available for the first half-year of 1907, the accounts of the Scottish companies in particular not having been yet received at the Board of Trade. I have, however, had the accounts of twenty-four of the principal English, Welsh, and Irish companies examined, whose ordinary capital amounts to about three-quarters of the ordinary capital of the railways of the United Kingdom, and I find that the average dividend on such capital amounted to 3·22 per cent. for the first half of 1907 as against 2·99 per cent. for the first half of 1905.

General Lighthouse Fund Accounts.

MR. W. R. REA (Scarborough): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the General Lighthouse Fund Accounts for the year ending 31st March, 1906, will be laid upon the Table of the House before the adjournment; and, if not, what is the reason of the delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1906, were presented to Parliament in December last. Complete accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1907, have not yet been received. The accounts will be presented to Parliament at the earliest opportunity after the necessary certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor-General has been furnished to the Board of Trade. I have given instructions that advance copies of these accounts shall be furnished as soon as they are received to the members of the Advisory Committee on new lighthouse works.

Navy—Allocation of Crews.

SIR JOHN BENN (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in allocating men to the various ships, more regard can he had to the place of residence of the wives and families of the men; and whether he is aware that under the new system the practice has increased of sending men of the Eastern Division to serve on ships of the Western Division, and *vice versa*.

(*Answered by Mr. Lambert.*) As regards the first Question this is done as far as possible. The practice of sending men to port divisions other than their own is not increasing. In a few cases of ships belonging to the Chatham Port Division men have been temporarily lent from other ports as required by the exigencies of the service, but these men are being returned to their proper port as opportunities arise.

Audit Office Records.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will now state the names of the various accounts on which duplicate records are kept in the Audit Office, and the proportion of time on each of such accounts devoted to duplication and to auditing respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I have nothing to add to the replies already given on this subject.

The Assistant Comptroller and Auditor-General.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, seeing that the Assistant Comptroller and Auditor, on appointment, undertook to perform any additional duties that might devolve upon him as a result of the abolition of the chief clerkship then in contemplation, he will explain why £50 non-pensionable allowance was merged in the salary of the private secretary for pensionable purposes.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I have nothing to add to the replies already given on this subject.

Colonial Audit Branch.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether Mr. Barnes, of the Colonial Audit Branch in London, received instructions to prepare for transfer to Cyprus, and, if so, whether such instructions have been cancelled, and why; whether Mr. Grannum, local auditor in Cyprus, with about £500 per annum after ten years service, although he never passed a Civil Service examination for his position, received similar instructions to prepare for transfer to London; whether such instructions have been cancelled, and, if so, why; and, seeing that under similar circumstances Mr. Bathurst was transferred from Gibraltar to London and promoted to be chief examiner at his Colonial rate of £486 per annum, will he state what position and salary did the Comptroller and Auditor-General contemplate giving Mr. Grannum before his transfer was cancelled.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The Comptroller and Auditor-General is necessarily the best judge as to the local disposition of the several officers of his Department which is most to the advantage of the public service, and I am not prepared to inquire into his reasons for transferring or not transferring particular officers or into the hypothetical consequences of an unrealised contingency.

Exchequer and Audit Department.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state the respective salaries of Messrs. Bunbury, Robinson, and Dixon, of the Exchequer and Audit Department, immediately prior to 1st November, 1905, the length of service of each, and the respective increments due and salaries accorded to them on 1st November, 1905; the respective numbers of Second Division clerks who had between twenty-four and twenty-eight years service, nineteen and twenty-three years service, fourteen and eighteen years service, and eight and thirteen years service on 1st November, 1905, and whose higher division certificates were granted as from that date; and the average salary of each clerk in each group immediately preceding and immediately succeeding that date, showing in each case the average increment due on 1st November, 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I am not prepared to call upon the Department to undertake the preparation of such a statement, the value of which appears in no way commensurate with the labour involved.

Liverpool Distilleries.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he has any official information showing that, in bonded warehouses in England, new raw grain spirit from Liverpool distilleries is frequently blended in large vats with a few casks of spirits from Scotland, some buckets of burnt sugar added, and the mixture sold as mild old Irish whiskey; and, if so, what steps are being taken to stop this fraud on the English public.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I have consulted the Customs and Inland Revenue, and neither of them is aware of any case answering to the hon. Member's description.

Second Division Clerks.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in the Order in Council which is proposed to be issued altering the scale of salary applying to the Second Division clerks of the Civil Service, provision will be made by which the salary of a clerk who entered that division from a subordinate class shall be based on the present salary, and not calculated merely according to the years of service in the division.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I have nothing to add to the Answer which I gave to a similar Question by the hon. Member for the Tottenham Division of Middlesex on the 22nd instant.[†]

Post Office Women Clerks.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will state the number of Post Office women clerks serving in London who, during each of the last five years, desired a transfer to Dublin and who had their names entered in the Post Office books in London for this purpose; and the number of vacancies during each of the last five years in the clerical staff of women clerks in Dublin.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The particulars desired by the hon. Member are as follows:—

Year.	Number of applications for transfer recorded.	Number of vacancies for women clerks in Dublin.
1903	11	4
1904	6	1[‡]
1905	6	3
1906	13	Nil.
1907 (to date)	15	13 (including 10 new appointments consequent upon the transfer of certain postal order work to Dublin.

[‡] This vacancy and one of those which occurred in 1905 were not filled owing to a reduction in force.

There are now sixty-nine names on the list of women clerks desirous of transfer to Dublin.

Irish Savings Bank Deposits.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Postmaster-General whether, seeing that it is a fact in Savings Bank circles that the percentages, or figures immediately leading thereto, of Irish deposits and withdrawals made through British deposit books, and *vice versa*, have been actually worked out in the Post Office Savings Bank for the year 1906, or for a certain quarter or quarters of 1906, he will now order the Controller of the Savings Bank to furnish these percentages for the last available year or quarter; and, if not, will he say whether the refusal to publish these percentages is owing to the fact that their publication would destroy the only pretext the Post Office can put forward against having the Irish accounts kept in Dublin.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Postmaster-General whether, seeing that the total amount of the Post Office Savings Bank withdrawals in Ireland during the year ended 31st December, 1906, was £2,209,846, and that of this amount only £144,000, or less than one-fifteenth of the whole, was withdrawn on demand in sums of £1 and under, he will explain how the inconvenience caused to Irish depositors by the present arrangement of keeping the Irish savings bank accounts in London has been much diminished by the system of withdrawal on demand for sums not exceeding £1.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am afraid I have nothing to add to the replies which I have already given to my hon. friend's previous Questions on these subjects.

Bradwell-on-Sea Postal Deliveries.

MR. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he has now been able to arrange for an earlier morning delivery of letters at Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex.

[†] See (4) *Debates*, clxxxi., 118-9.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am sending the hon. Member a written reply.

Shetland Fishing Industry.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he can say what are approximately the number of persons employed in Shetland in connection with the whaling industry and the herring fishing industry, respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I understand that the number of persons employed in the whaling industry in Shetland is approximately 308, consisting of ninety-six foreigners aboard vessels and 137 foreigners and seventy-five local labourers ashore. The number employed in connection with the herring industry fluctuates so greatly throughout the season that it is impossible to give any reliable figure. Last year the greatest number employed at one time was 20,186, comprising fishermen, curers, coopers, gutters and packers, and general labourers; a large majority of these belonged to other districts in Scotland and were at Shetland temporarily for herring fishing.

Solway Fishing Industry.

Mr. MOLTENO (Dumfriesshire): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether his attention has been drawn to the dissatisfaction prevailing among the fishermen of the Scottish portion of the Solway in regard to the conditions under which they have to carry on their industry; whether he is aware that legislation was at one time in contemplation; and whether he will consider what steps of this nature can be taken at an early date.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I am aware of the dissatisfaction prevailing in reference to this matter and the suggestions that have been advanced for legislation. I have placed myself in communication with the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and learn that it is hoped the Salmon Fisheries Act for England of this session may materially facilitate a settlment of this question.

Private Burial Grounds.

Mr. H. BEAUMONT (Sussex, Eastbourne): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will give the names and localities of the various private burial grounds to use which permission has been granted to religious institutions during the last five years.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.* The particulars of the several cases in which approval was given during the five years ended 31st December last, and of two cases in which approval has since been given are as follows:—

Name of institution.	District or parish in which burial ground is situate.	Date of approval.
Carmelite Convent, Silver Hall - -	Heston and Isleworth Urban District	21st April 1902
Convent of the Burnham Community of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart	Burnham Urban District, Somerset	17th Dec. 1902
Benedictine Priory of the Sacred Heart	Ventnor Urban District	31st Dec. 1902
Clarence House Convent of Benedictine Nuns	East Cowes Urban District	18th July 1903
Conventional Church of the Society of St. John the Evangelist at Cowley	City of Oxford	7th Nov. 1904
East Dene, occupied by Nuns of the Order of the Sacred Heart	Bonchurch, Isle of Wight	28th Feb. 1905
St. Mary's Convent, Portslade	Portslade	
St. Cecilia's Abbey, occupied by Benedictine Nuns	St. Helen's Urban District, Isle of Wight	28th June 1906 19th July 1907
Monastery on the Quarr Abbey House Estate	Binstead, Isle of Wight	14th Aug. 1907

Bradford Drunkenness Prosecution.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (Yorkshire, W.R., Shipley): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of Lee, who on 12th April 1906, was fined 10s. and costs for being drunk and incapable by the West Riding Bench at Bradford; whether he is aware that a fortnight was allowed him in which to pay, at the expiration of which he applied for an extension of time at the Shipley police station, which was refused, the fine was subsequently paid and a receipt given, but on 30th April Lee was arrested and taken to Wakefield Gaol; whether he is aware that he was released by order on 2nd May, and the amount of the fine, 10s., was tendered to him as compensation, this was refused; whether he will inquire into the circumstances of the case, and say what course he is prepared to take for compensating Lee for the illegal arrest and false imprisonment.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) My attention has not been previously called to this matter. I will make inquiry into it; but I may remind my hon. friend that, if the facts are as stated, Lee has his remedy at law.

Estates Commissioners and Lands of Mr. Walter Morrogh of Cork.

MR. FLAVIN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he can state if Mr. Walter Morrogh, of South Mall, Cork, or his agent, E. H. Poe Hosford, of Limerick, has offered the lands in the electoral division, Killahan, near Ardfert, North Kerry, for sale to the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, with what result.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The lands referred to have not been offered for sale to the Estates Commissioners.

Congestion in County Clare.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the attention of the Congested Districts Board has been drawn to the state of congestion which exists in the Mount Shannon district notably on the Wakely estate, Scariff, county Clare; whether the Congested Districts Board sought to improve the lot of these tenants by purchasing the untenanted lands on the estate; and whether, in view of the character of the agreements to purchase those lands entered into by some large holders of land in the neighbourhood, he will take such steps as are necessary to prevent the alienation of those lands from the mountain congests in the district.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Congested Districts Board received last year a memorial from the tenants on the Wakely estate asking the Board to interfere in the letting of the untenanted lands by the owner. The estate, however, has not been offered for sale to the Board, and they have therefore taken no steps to purchase it.

Wakely Estate, Scariff.

MR. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the tenants on the Wakely estate, Scariff, county Clare, are being pressed by the owners of the estate to sign purchase agreements, including the payment of a sum of money for each tenant over and above the price to be fixed by the Estates Commissioners; and whether, in view of the number of small holdings on this property, steps will be taken by the Estates Commissioners to protect them against pressure by ordering an inspection of their holdings.

MR. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, if the attention of the Estates Commissioners has been directed to a number of new tenancies created on the Wakely estate, Scariff, county Clare; whether he has any official information showing that this was done in anticipation of the Estates Commissioners purchasing the grazing lands in the interest of the small tenants on the property; and whether the Commissioners will institute immediate inquiry into the matter before the agreements to purchase signed by the non-residential grazing tenants are sanctioned.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that proceedings for the sale of the estate referred to in these two Questions have not up to the present been instituted before them. In the event of proceedings, the Commissioners will after due inquiry give full consideration to the matters of fact alleged in the Questions.

Lindsay Talbot Crosbie Estate, Ardfert.

MR. FLAVIN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a complaint has been made by John Keeffe, of Kileade, a tenant on the Lindsay Talbot Crosbie estate, at Ardfert, to the Estates Commissioners about his land being flooded; whether an inspector has visited his farm; and, if so, whether the landlord or the Estates Commissioners have or will reduce the price in his purchase agreement which was only signed after a writ was served on him by the landlord for £117 12s. 8d.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners received a complaint from John Keeffe as to the flooding of his holding. The complaint was duly inquired into by an inspector who visited the land and reported on the matter. The Commissioners after due consideration sanctioned the advance applied for by the tenant, and the holding has since been vested in him. The Commissioners have no power to reduce the advance which has been made.

Tarbert Eviction.

MR. FLAVIN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Captain Robert Leslie, D.L., Tarbert, county Kerry, obtained the assistance of Sergeant Curran and two constables of Tarbert police station to evict a woman named Murray from her house in the village of Tarbert; that the police, headed by Sergeant Curran, obtained sticks and broke open the door and windows of this house and evicted this woman without producing a warrant or any order of a court of law; that Sergeant Curran summoned Miss Murray for assault on the occasion and the resident magistrate, James W. Flanagan, dismissed the case and stated that the sergeant acted perfectly illegally in carrrying out an eviction without producing a warrant, or in aiding or assisting the bailiffs; and will the Forces of the Crown be in future refused Captain Leslie in carrying out such proceedings.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Captain Leslie obtained from the magistrates in petty sessions a decree for possession of a small tenement which was in the occupation of Mary Murray, and the warrant was addressed to the police under the provisions of the Statute 14 and 15 Vic., c. 92, Section 15, Subsection 3. Mary Murray resisted the execution of the warrant, and the police therefore forced open the door. It is the fact that Sergeant Curran prosecuted Mary Murray for assault, and that the resident magistrate dismissed the case on the ground that the warrant was not produced. No reference, however, was made to bailiffs, for no bailiffs were concerned in the matter. The police have no option but to execute warrants for the possession of small tenements when such warrants are addressed to them under the Act quoted.

C. D. O'Rorke's Estate, Galway.

MR. HAZLETON (Galway, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Land Judge has yet come to any decision with reference to the offer for the estate of C. D. O'Rorke, county Galway, made by the Estates Commissioners; and, if not, how soon a decision is likely to be arrived at.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Registrar of the Land Judge's Court informs me that the Land Judge has not come to a decision in this matter. The parties interested in the estate are still considering their position in reference to the offer made by the Estates Commissioners. No decision can now be arrived at until next sittings.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what steps the Estates Commissioners took with regard to acquiring the demesne and untenanted land, amounting to 700 acres, which the owners of the Woodrooffe estate, county Waterford, offered for sale in the Land Judge's Court; whether the Estate Commissioners have any knowledge that these lands, except a small portion of rough land offered to them, have been sold by the Land Judge; if so, what are the names of the purchasers; what is the area which each of them has bought, and at what price; whether an application is pending before the Estates Commissioners for the sale of tenanted land on this estate to the occupiers; whether a number of the tenants have refused to sign purchase agreements on the terms demanded; and whether, in view of the intention of the Land Act of 1903 and to the number of uneconomic mountain holdings on this estate, the Estates Commissioners propose to take any action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) On 31st October last the Estates Commissioners issued a request to the Land Judge under Section 7 of the Act of 1903 in regard to the Woodrooffe estate. On 8th March following the Commissioners were furnished with particulars of 434 acres of untenanted land proposed to be sold to them. The Commissioners have had this land inspected, but have not yet made an offer to purchase it. They are at present making further inquiries in the matter, and in the meantime cannot say what action they may decide to take. The Registrar of the Land Judge's Court informs me that untenanted land on this estate has been sold to the following purchasers at the prices stated: Claud Anson, 2,133 acres, £7,308; James Crooks, 303 acres, £1,400; Michael Walsh, 19 acres, £40; Mary Walsh, 27 acres, £60; Daniel Devine, 70 acres, £200; William Devine, 10 acres, £22. No proceedings are pending before the Estates Commissioners for the sale of the tenanted land. This portion of the property is being sold by the Land Judge to the tenants direct. The Commissioners have no informtion as to whether any of the tenants have refused to sign purchase agreements.

Soldiers and Plain Clothes.

SIR JOHN BENN (Devonport): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that, under the King's Regulations, Paragraph 1955, as amended by Army Order 171 of 1907, men living in Devonport, Stonehouse, and Plymouth cannot get a permit to wear plain clothes at all unless they want to leave the district on pass or furlough; and whether, as this limitation is regarded by the lower ranks of the service as a grievance, he will consider extending the order to men of all ranks of very good character, or else allow men with standing passes to wear plain clothes.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I would refer my hon. friend to the Answer I gave on this subject on the 14th instant to the hon. Member for the Totnes Division, to the effect that the extension of the privilege to wear plain clothes has only recently been made to certain classes of non-commissioned officers. Soldiers of good character are, under existing regulations, permitted at the discretion of their commanding officer to wear plain clothes on pass or furlough beyond the limits of the garrison in which they are quartered. It is not proposed further to extend this privilege.

Belfast Riots.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): To ask the Secretary of State for War will he say the number of soldiers injured during the Belfast riots and the particulars of the injuries they received.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The total number of the military injured during the Belfast riots were three officers and thirty-five non-commissioned officers and men. The information as to the exact nature of the injuries has not yet been received, but it will be communicated in due course to my hon. friend

Catholic Soldiers' Children.

MR. W. BENN (Tower Hamlets, St. George): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the hardship suffered by Catholic soldiers in barracks at Sheffield, Hounslow, and elsewhere, who desire to send their children to schools outside the barracks, but are not permitted by the regulations to do so; and whether he will so amend the regulations as to make it possible for these children to attend the school their parents desire.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) These and similar cases are now being inquired into, and I will consider whether any Amendment of the regulations is necessary.

Army Horse Shoe Contracts.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: To ask the Secretary of State for War if an order for 100,000 pairs of horse shoes has recently been placed by the War Department in America; if 417 kegs of horse shoes which arrived this month for C. & Co., per ss. "Minnetonka," 808 kegs per ss. "Minneapolis," and 435 kegs per ss. "Minnehaha," from New York, were in reality for the shoeing of British Army horses; and, having regard to the depression in the horse-shoe trade in the United Kingdom and among farriers generally, owing to the increase in the use of motors, if he can explain why His Majesty's Government did not give this order in a way to support British industries and British workers.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The Answer to the first part of this Question is in the affirmative; to the second, that these are probably the shoes ordered on the contract referred to. As regards the final paragraph, I can only say that in the interests of the economical administration of the Army I cannot disregard sources of supply which are satisfactory both as regards price and efficiency.

Tidworth Barrack Contracts.

Mr. ROGERS (Wiltshire, Devizes): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether bricks made at Dodsdown, Great Bedwyn, have been rejected by the War Office for use by the contractor in the construction of the new cavalry barracks at Tidworth; and, if so, on what grounds.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Yes, Sir, these bricks have been rejected, as they did not comply with the requirements of the specification.

Ely Barracks.

Mr. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University): To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether he can say how soon the War Office will come to a decision upon the question of the repair of the Ely Barracks; and whether it is intended that in the interval the permanent staff shall continue to reside in the barracks which have been declared by the War Office to be insanitary; and whether the War Office are still continuing to pay rent for the barracks despite their present condition.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) As regards the first part of the Question the matter is under consideration. As regards the second part, I am not aware that the barracks have been declared insanitary; although the drains require reconstruction, the barracks are still being occupied. The Answer to the last paragraph is in the affirmative. The barracks are held on a lease, which can be broken on twelve months notice, if it is decided not to keep them.

Port Royal Garrison.

Mr. G. GREENWOOD (Peterborough): To ask the Secretary of State for War, if, since the earthquake in Jamaica, yellow or other malignant fever has broken out at Port Royal; if there has been great mortality among the British troops there stationed; and, if so, will he cause them to be removed to healthier quarters.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane*). There have been only two cases of malaria among the European troops and seven cases among the non-Europeans at Port Royal since the commencement of this year. None of these was fatal. There have been no cases of yellow fever or enteric. There are in this Department no statistics regarding the health of the civil population at Port Royal.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Rating of Shipwrights.

Mr. MILDMAY (Devonshire, Totnes): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is a fact that the rating of shipwright has suddenly been closed to carpenters' crews who had not passed the shipwright's examination prior to 1906; and whether, if that be so, he will take into consideration the claims to advancement to this rating of those who, under a misapprehension, have worked for and passed the examinations for shipwrights and leading shipwrights, and who joined His Majesty's Navy under the inducement held out to them that this way would be open to them to attain the position of petty officer.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. LAMBERT, Devonshire, South Molton): It is not correct to say that the rating of shipwright has suddenly been closed to leading carpenters' crews who had not passed prior to 1906. Owing to the redistribution of the Fleet and the paying off of some of the older vessels, the higher ratings in the shipwright and other artisan classes are overborne, and consequently the advancement of the lower ratings, which normally is only made when there are vacancies, has been delayed. The matter is now engaging the attention of the Admiralty.

MR. MILDMAY asked whether he might conclude that, upon the block being removed, the rating of shipwright would be reopened to leading carpenter's crews?

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) asked if the regulations of 1906 still held good.

MR. LAMBERT said he could only repeat that the whole matter was being considered by the Admiralty.

MR. MILDMAY expressed the hope that he might gather that such advancement was only delayed until the block had been removed.

British West Indies—Laws for the Protection of Emigrants.

MR. STAVELEY-HILL (Staffordshire, Kingswinford): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will lay upon the Table of the House copies of the laws passed for the protection of emigrants by the British West Indian Colonies.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): I would refer the hon. Member to an Answer to a similar question which I gave to the hon. Member for Gravesend yesterday.†

Travellers' Licences in South Africa.

MR. BRANCH (Middlesex, Enfield): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that the Government of Natal, South Africa, propose largely to increase the charges for licences to travellers from £10 inclusive of all firms whom they represent to £25 for each firm; and whether he will use his influence to avert this injury to British trade.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is aware of the proposed legislation and has received a number of representations that it will be seriously prejudicial to British trade. He has thought it right to bring these representations to the notice of the Governor of Natal by telegram.

Collapse of Egyptian Buildings.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can yet give information as to the number of buildings which have collapsed in Alexandria, Cairo, and their environs, in the past twelve months, and the number of persons thereby killed and injured.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): The Report which has been called for on the subject has not yet been received.

Egyptian Teachers.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can yet state the total amount of provision made by the Egyptian Government for sending students to Europe; and what prospect there is of increase in the number of qualified Egyptian teachers.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Budget of the Egyptian Ministry of Education for 1908 has not yet been considered by the Council of Ministers, and will not be finally settled till October. It is, therefore, impossible to say what the special credit allotted for any particular purpose will be. I may state, however, that the Egyptian Ministry of Education is making arrangements with a view to sending this autumn nineteen Egyptian students—a number not previously equalled—for training and further study in England, in addition to those who are already in this country undergoing special courses of instruction. It is hoped that all these Egyptian students, on the completion of their training, will enter the service of the Egyptian Government as teachers.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxxii., 152.

Mr. J. M. ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will obtain for the information of the House a classified list of professors who were employed by the Egyptian Government in teaching the sciences in Arabic at the date of the British occupation.

I beg further to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will obtain for the information of the House a classified list of works, written in or translated into Arabic, upon scientific and technical subjects, and published in Arabic by the National Printing Press of Egypt, between the date of Mohamed Ali's accession, 1806, and that of the British occupation, 1882.

Sir EDWARD GREY: In answer to these Questions I must point out that I have already caused a great deal of extra, and in some cases laborious, work on the part of officials in Egypt, by asking for detailed information in reply to Questions. In this case, I do not think it would be reasonable to ask them to make inquiries dating back to 1806. I do not know whether the information could be obtained; I do not suppose it could be obtained without much trouble; and when obtained a list of persons and books could not be a guide to the value of the instruction given by them.

Mr. J. M. ROBERTSON: May I ask if such a list could not be easily obtained in London, and would it not be better to proceed on it rather than on mere guess-work?

Sir EDWARD GREY: I do not think the list of books would be of any value without a knowledge of their contents, and the knowledge of Members in Arabic would need to be much more extensive than it is for the information to be of any good.

His Majesty's Consuls and Labour Statistics.

Mr. C. E. PRICE (Edinburgh, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether his attention has been called to the fact that no information regarding conditions of labour, wages, and the cost of living appears in the Consular Reports from Austria-Hungary, Havre, and Philadelphia, similar to those from the Consuls in Germany and Chicago, U.S.A.; and whether he will issue instructions to all Consuls in His Majesty's service to supply such information in order to test the value of the trade and its effect upon the people of each country reported upon.

Sir EDWARD GREY: I will consider, in consultation with the Board of Trade, whether any general instructions could be advantageously issued to His Majesty's Consular Officers on the points referred to. In view, however, of the complexity of these subjects and of the fact that the trustworthy information available with regard to them in some districts is frequently very scanty or wholly lacking, it may be that, generally speaking, they are more suited for special inquiry by expert investigators than for treatment in the Annual Reports of His Majesty's Consuls.

Newfoundland Fisheries.

Mr. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) asked if the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was now in a position to give a definite Answer to the Question of the hon. Member for Gravesend as to laying on the Table the Correspondence between the Colonial Office and Sir Robert Bond, and the Colonial Office and the Newfoundland Government.

Sir EDWARD GREY: Negotiations are still proceeding. I am not in a position to add to the previous Answers to Questions on this subject.

White Star Company and their Stewards.

Mr. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the White Star Steamship Company have refused to pay their stewards for working overtime and at dock work, owing to a strike in progress when their steamship "Oceanic" arrived at New York;

that the men were threatened prosecution unless they obeyed orders, and, after working five days and one night, were paid 10 dollars and 30 cents less than the usual rates, and, although one of these men fell ill and was ordered by the ship's doctor to take rest, the second mate refused to allow this, and the man broke down and is still ill; and whether he can introduce some kind of legislation to prevent the ship's officers from imposing conditions of service upon their employees aboard ship that they could not impose on land.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): I am informed that although the articles of agreement of the "Oceanic" contained a stipulation that no overtime would be paid, the stewards who worked overtime owing to the strike at New York received gratuities in addition to their regular wages. In the absence of the "Oceanic" I cannot obtain information as to the statement in the second part of the Question, but I am making inquiries. No further legislation affecting merchant shipping is at present in contemplation.

Australian Tariff on Bicycles.

MR. A. E. W. MASON (Coventry): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the proposed Australian tariff on English bicycles amounting in many cases to 100 per cent. *ad valorem*; and whether any, and if any, what, steps are in contemplation to prevent a prohibitive barrier being raised against British goods by a British Colony.

*MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: My attention has been called to the new Australian tariff rate on British bicycles, and I have invited representatives of the Coventry Chamber of Commerce to discuss the matter with the Board of Trade, and I understand that it has been arranged that they should see me to-morrow. Steps will be taken in due course to represent to the Australian Government the views of the British traders in regard to the tariff.

School Accommodation.

MR. GRETTON (Rutland): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education when it is expected that the Return dealing with the square-foot basis of accommodation in public elementary schools will be issued.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. McKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): I do not know to what Return the hon. Member is referring; but, as I have already intimated, the fresh consideration of the premises of all the many thousands of elementary schools that are on the eight-foot basis and the reassessment of their accommodation in a manner that shall afford not less than nine square-feet for infants and ten for older scholars must be a slow process, and I cannot yet name a date by which we can hope for it to be completed.

MR. GRETTON: Was any action taken by the Board of Education on the lines indicated before the issue of the Return?

MR. McKENNA: There is no Return of all the schools, but each school is being dealt with separately.

Welsh Secondary Education Grants.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether, if the preliminary and extended course for secondary education are eliminated, there will still remain a difference of £2 5s. a head on the ordinary course in favour of England as compared with the corresponding figure for Wales per pupil, the total grants for the course in England being £20, as against £17 15s. for Wales; and, if so, whether, seeing that the Welsh ratepayer will pay more per head on secondary scholars than the ratepayer in England, and that there are more secondary scholars in proportion to the population in Wales than in England, he will consider the desirability of reconsidering the proposed differentiation of Government grants for secondary education.

The following Questions on the same subject also appeared on the Paper—

MR. REES: To ask the President of the Board of Education whether, under the recent notification of his Department in this behalf, it is only in the fourth year that the Welsh secondary school pupil will attain the maximum grant of £5, which the English pupil enjoys from the first year of his course; and whether he will reconsider a differentiation by which, in the absence of explanation, the Welsh pupil is prejudiced.

MR. REES: To ask the President of the Board of Education whether in the case of Welsh secondary schools no grant is given under the new regulations for certain years of school instruction, whereas in the case of most of the English schools payment is made for all the years of the course; and whether he will reconsider this differentiation, in order to the equal treatment of Welsh schools.

MR. REES: To ask the President of the Board of Education whether, under the recent regulations for secondary education, no grant is allowed in Wales for children under twelve, while in England grants are provided for such children; and whether, if this be the case, he will reconsider this differentiation in order to redress the inequality established.

MR. REES: To ask the President of the Board of Education whether the amount of secondary school teaching in Wales is, proportionately to population, much greater than in England; whether, if that be the case, the Welsh ratepaper is unfairly mulcted when grants are allocated upon a basis of population instead of upon the basis of the work actually done; and whether he will reconsider the allocation already made in view to a fairer distribution as between Wales and England in this behalf.

MR. MCKENNA: In reply to this and the four following Questions, my hon. friend, as I have already stated, is under a misapprehension in instituting these comparisons between the grants paid on account of secondary schools in England and Wales respectively. The share of the amount allotted to Wales is based not on population, but on the actual grants paid to Wales for this purpose in the last three years.

*MR. REES asked whether it was the case that grants were not paid in Wales to children until they reached the age of twelve, and whether subsequently to that date they did not draw less in proportion than England; further, whether, seeing that only two out of 100 Welsh schools failed to earn the full normal grant whereas one in four in England failed, it was not advisable that some arrangement should be made whereby the Welsh schools instead of being penalised for greater efficiency should be put on an equality with similar schools in England.

MR. MCKENNA: My hon. friend is mistaken. These grants are not paid to the children, but to the schools, and it has been determined that Wales on the whole is entitled to one-eleventh of the grant England as a whole is entitled to.

*MR. REES: The right hon. Gentleman is aware that I meant paid on account of, and not to, the children, and may I ask him further whether the misapprehension under which I labour in this matter is not shared by the Welsh people, and particularly by those who learnt arithmetic in his own schools?

MR. MCKENNA: Here again my hon. friend is mistaken. This misapprehension was shared by a large number of persons in Wales, but they have long since been convinced of their error.

*MR. REES: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman in what way he has acquired the knowledge that all who shared what he calls my misapprehension have now lost it, and whether it is not the case that grants to Welsh intermediate schools work out at 20s. a head as against 22s. in England in the case in which the comparison is least unfavourable to Wales?

MR. MCKENNA: No, Sir. My hon. friend is mistaken in that.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.): On what basis is the one eleventh made out, is it population?

MR. MCKENNA: On the basis of the actual amount which has been expended for these purposes in the two countries for the last three years.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR: Which two countries?

MR. MCKENNA: England and Wales.

Garforth School.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education why the overcrowding of the Garforth parochial school cannot be met by the transference of those children to the council school who, in the opinion of the managers of the parochial school, can be most conveniently transferred; whether there was in fact any risk of overcrowding after October 1st; on what grounds the Board have decided that the children in Standards III. and IV. should be removed to the council school; whether he considers it educationally desirable that the voluntary school should consist of the highest and lowest standards only; and whether the direction of the Board is given under Section 7 (3) of the Education Act, 1902, or under Article 53 of the Code.

MR. MCKENNA: As the Garforth council school is a school for older scholars only, it was necessary that the children selected for transference should be the older children who could be conveniently taught in the council school. As the total number of scholars on the books of the parochial schools for the month of June was 414, and the recognised accommodation is 352, I presume that if some re-organisation did not take place there would certainly be overcrowding, if not on the 1st October, at any rate for a considerable part of the school year. The Board have decided that Standards I. to III. only are to be continued in the mixed department of the parochial school, the children above Standard III. being taught in the council school. The voluntary school will not, therefore, consist of the highest and lowest standards only, as the hon. Baronet suggests. The Board are proceeding in this case under both of the provisions referred to by the hon. Baronet.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON asked what power the Board of Education had to override the right of parents to send their children to what school they pleased so long as there was sufficient accommodation.

MR. MCKENNA: The Board are proceeding under Section 7 (3) of the Education Act of 1902, and also under the Code.

MR. CARLILE asked if it was not proposed to transfer to the council school many more children than were required to reduce the attendance in the parochial school to the recognised accommodation.

MR. MCKENNA said an alteration of the buildings would be required to convert the school into an infant and junior school, and additional accommodation would be provided for the infants.

Merionethshire Education Dispute.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he will now lay upon the Table the correspondence with the county council of Merionethshire with reference to the payment of teachers' salaries.

MR. MCKENNA: Yes, Sir.

Land Tax Commissioners.

MR. GRETTON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury for what purpose an addition of about five thousand gentlemen was made to the numbers of the Land Tax Commissioners in December last.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): The Land Tax Commissioners Act of 1906, under which the new Commissioners were appointed, was introduced in accordance with the usual practice of bringing in a Bill of this nature early in each new Parliament, in order to replenish from time to time the number of Land Tax Commissioners. The Commissioners appointed were, in accordance with the usual practice, selected by Members of Parliament on a Resolution of the House of Commons passed after the Second Reading of the Bill; the selection of the Commissioners and the number to be appointed being matters for the discretion of the individual Members.

MR. GRETTON: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that in Leicester eighty out of eighty-four Commissioners appointed were of one political complexion?

CAPTAIN NORTON: I am not aware, of that.

MR. GRETTON: What was the reason for appointing the unprecedented number of 5,000?

CAPTAIN NORTON: I have answered that.

Mr. GRETTON: Were all the appointments made on the recommendation of Members of this House?

Captain NORTON: That is so.

Lord R. CECIL: Was it only Liberal Members who were intrusted with this duty?

Captain NORTON: I am not aware, but I believe it was all Members of Parliament.

Lord R. CECIL: I had no communication on the subject at any rate.

Scottish Leaving-Certificate Examinations.

Mr. SUTHERLAND (Elgin Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will say what was the object of changing the date of leaving-certificate examinations from June to April; and whether that change was made with the approval of local education authorities and of teachers.

The SECRETARY for SCOTLAND (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire): The object of the change of date of the written examination was to give full opportunity for collating the evidence of the written papers with the estimate of the pupils' attainments as arrived at by the teachers, and for such oral examination as may prove necessary when the two kinds of testimony are in conflict. Incidentally the change will admit of the results being communicated to the schools at a reasonably early date in spite of the much longer time which they now take to prepare. The change of date was announced by circular to the schools on the 15th May last, and from such expressions of opinion as have reached the Department since that date they have no reason to suppose that the change does not meet with the approval of the great majority of the managers and teachers concerned.

Holme Lacy Charities.

Mr. T. F. RICHARDS: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that six tenants have notice to leave their holdings because it is alleged that they are the friends of tenants previously given notice to leave their farms for participation in petitioning the Charity Commissioners to hold an inquiry into the administration of the Holme Lacy charities, and at which inquiry most of the allegations were proved to be true, whereby one late employee of the chief trustee, who usually acted without consulting the others, was found to have been appointed a pension at an age a little more than forty years, although this charity was left for decayed men, and at the inquiry this person, who has two farms of more than 340 acres, agreed to give up the pension, which he has drawn for more than nineteen years; whether he is aware that dissatisfaction prevails in the district, where the new trustees appointed are likely to be composed of employees of the trustee above referred to; and whether he can introduce legislation early next session that will prevent honest and worthy farmers from being evicted from their tenures because they have performed a public duty.

Mr. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden): The right hon. Gentleman has asked me to reply to this. The hon. Member's question has been dealt with in the Answers which were given to him on 31st July and 21st August.† The Charity Commissioners are not aware that tenants have received notice to quit. It is believed that the schemes which the Commissioners propose to publish will be generally accepted as satisfactory. In framing these schemes the Commissioners desire to provide that a majority of the new trustees shall be elected by local bodies who would not be restricted in their choice of representatives. I understand that the Government are not prepared to undertake legislation of the kind suggested.

Mr. T. F. RICHARDS: Will the hon. gentleman inquire from Lord Chesterfield if he will withdraw these notices, seeing that these men have acted on behalf of the public generally?

Mr. J. A. PEASE: I will communicate the wishes of the hon. Member to the Charity Commissioners.

The Hague Conference.

*Sir RANDAL CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston): I wish to ask the Prime

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxix., 943–4; clxxxi., 828–9.

Minister if his attention has been called to the conflicting reports which have been published concerning the policy of the British representatives at The Hague Conference, and the decisions arrived at by that body, and whether he will as speedily as possible circulate among Members of this House an official statement of the resolutions agreed to by the Conference.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I have noticed several conflicting reports in various organs of the Press since the Conference met in June last; but I am not aware to which of these my hon. friend particularly refers. A large number of questions are now under the consideration of the Conference at various stages, and it would not be courteous to that body to adopt the course which my hon. friend suggests. I can only refer to the Answers given by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield, and to the statement that Papers will be laid in due course when the Conference has terminated its labours. I am satisfied that when these Papers are placed fully before the country it will be seen that our delegates have acquitted themselves not only to the credit of the country, but to the advantage of the cause of peace.

The Prorogation.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS (Kent, St. Augustine's): I beg to ask what time the right hon. Gentleman proposes to ask the House to meet to-morrow for the purposes of Prorogation.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Twelve o'clock.

PUBLIC HEALTH (REGULATIONS AS TO FOOD) BILL.

Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith—(*Mr. Burns*); considered, and agreed to.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS BILL.

Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith—(*Mr. Burns*); considered, and agreed to.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY (INSURANCE COMPANIES) BILL.

Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith—(*Mr. Lloyd-George*); considered, and agreed to.

IRISH LAND (No. 2) BILL.

Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith—(*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*); considered, and agreed to.

NEW BILL.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AND SUMMARY JURISDICTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To regulate and amend Criminal Procedure in Scotland, and to extend the Jurisdiction and Powers of the Sheriff in Summary Criminal Cases," presented by The Lord Advocate; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 338.]

CABS AND STAGE CARRIAGES (LONDON) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered.

First Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 1, line 23 to leave out Clause 2,"

Read a second time.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.), in moving that the House do disagree with the Lords in their Amendment to maintain the privilege cab system at the London railway stations, said that he hoped those in another place would see on reflection that the public interest had been fully safeguarded in this matter. The cabmen had given positive assurances that they could and would serve the public interest adequately and faithfully. In the next place, the Home Secretary had reserved power under the Bill to relieve in whole or in part any station in the metropolis; and it would be his duty, if there were any breakdown in the system to the prejudice of the public, to use his powers. The opposition to the Bill had come entirely from the railway companies, whose interests must come after those of the general public. Those who argued that public interests were endangered by the Bill had not considered the question, which had been under Parliamentary consideration for fifteen years. Twelve years ago a Departmental Committee reported in favour of the abolition of the privilege system, and last year a representative Committee went exhaustively into the question and reported unanimously in favour of abolition. On the division on this clause only twenty-four members voted against it and 176 for it. In these circumstances the Government had no option but to ask the House to disagree with the Lords Amendment. If the Lords insisted on rejecting this clause, on them must rest the full responsibility for the loss of the Bill and its many valuable provisions framed in the public interest.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said that the assurances which the right hon. Gentleman had spoken of were given by the Cabmen's Trade Union, which represented about 8,000 men. But the union had no power to compel the men to go to a railway station. With all the desire in the world, it was impossible for the union to secure an adequate supply of cabs. It was not quite correct to say that the opposition came only from the railway companies; but, even if it were so, surely those who should protest were those who knew? He quite admitted that, from the point of view of the Cabmen's Union, this was a capital Bill; but the interests of the members of the union and those of the public did not coincide. There was a statement in *The Times* the other day from a man who pointed out that at Waterloo, where the open system prevailed, it was impossible to get a cab on arrival, and that it was necessary to rush a vehicle which was bringing a passenger to the departure platform.

MR. GLADSTONE: That is nonsense.

SIR F. BANBURY asked whether the right hon. Gentleman had tried the experiment. The real origin of this Bill was the demand of the London Improved Cab Company for taximeters, and had nothing whatever to do with the privilege cab system.

MR. GLADSTONE said the hon. Baronet was quite mistaken. This question had been going on ever since the Committee reported, and at that time he announced in the House and elsewhere that if he could not come to an agreement with the railway companies on the privilege system a Bill would be brought in. That was over a year ago.

SIR F. BANBURY said he did not deny that the right hon. Gentleman said he would bring in a Bill, but, as these two matters were quite distinct, he ought to have brought in a Bill relating to taximeters and another relating to the privilege system. The only interest those who were opposing the Bill had was to ensure that there should be a sufficient supply of cabs at the stations, and he hoped the Lords would insist on their Amendment.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs) expressed the opinion that it would be difficult, unless there was some system like this, to make a proper provision of cabs at the great termini. He was sure this case was prejudiced by the name privileged, but he regarded it as a privilege, not for the cabmen, but for the public, and, in saying this, he desired his right hon. friend the Home Secretary to understand that he was not speaking on behalf of the railway companies, but as one of the public, who knew what it was to find a good cab ready as one did at Euston and what it was to find no cab as one did at Waterloo. He wanted to see the Bill, which was an excellent one, passed, but he could not see that this abolition of the privileged cab system formed an integral part of it. He knew how slow cabmen were to adopt new systems or even to discover a new terminus. Even now they hardly realised the existence of Marylebone, and cabs there would be hard to get but for the privileged system. It took cabmen long to get accustomed to a new station. Every cabman was conservative just as every fare was, or was expected to be, liberal. He thought the Bill might very well stand without this provision, as it came back from another place. But he did not want to see it lost.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) said the London Members were, by an overwhelming majority, in favour of the abolition of the privilege system, and he thought another place would be well advised in reconsidering their decision.

Question put, and agreed to.

Remaining Lords Amendments agreed to.

Committee appointed to draw up reasons to be assigned to the Lords for disagreeing to one of their Amendments to the Bill.

Committee nominated of,—Mr. Secretary Gladstone, Mr. Lough, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. John O'Connor, Mr. Pickersgill, and Mr. Herbert Samuel.

Three to be the quorum.

To withdraw immediately.—(*Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*)

MERCHANT SHIPPING (TONNAGE DEDUCTION FOR PROPELLING POWER) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendments to the Amendment in page 1, line 18, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 1, line 18, to leave out the word 'shall' and insert the word 'may,'"

Read a second time.

MR. NAPIER (Kent, Faversham) hoped this Amendment would not be agreed to. Under it a clergyman might forbid the use of his church for the celebration of a marriage with a deceased wife's sister. In the present position of the Church of England that was quite a wrong thing. The right of marriage in the parish church was a common law right of Englishmen; what right had the clergy to withhold that right from people who belonged to the Church of England? He denied entirely that the clergy represented the Church of England, or that they were the Church of England. Parliament having laid it down that this was a fit and proper marriage to be celebrated in a parish church, a clergyman had no right to refuse his church for that purpose.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.) made an earnest appeal to the House not to endanger the Bill. Under the Bill marriage with a deceased wife's sister would be made legal from to-morrow, and it would also be made legal retrospectively. The point involved in the Amendment was a very small thing, and he did not believe that in practice it would have any effect at all, because he felt quite certain that in two or three years the whole matter would have dropped, people would have forgotten that these marriages were ever forbidden, and he did not believe that any clergyman would refuse the use of his church—or, at any rate, it would be a very rare thing for him to do so. If they did not insert these Amendments of the Lords, they would run a very great danger of losing the Bill.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone) asked the promoters whether they would not strike out the whole of this proviso. It was perfectly valueless and otiose.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON preferred to retain the Bill in the form in which it had been agreed to by the Lords.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 2, line 27, after Clause 3 to insert a new clause ('Liability incurred through ecclesiastical censure),'"

Read a second time.

*MR. ESSEX (Gloucestershire, Cirencester) looked upon this as a serious Amendment, and hoped it would not be agreed to. The promoters seemed prepared to throw everything to the winds in order to secure their Bill. This concession was not only weak, but wholly wrong in principle. It was pandering to episcopal intolerance. Many, himself included, were wholly indifferent to episcopal censure and dislike, and would sleep undisturbed in spite of it, but there were others for whom they had a profound respect, who were not equally insusceptible to such influence, and he appealed on their behalf. He hoped the House would not accept the Amendment, for it was unjust to lessen to the clergy the liberty which the Government proposed to give to the ordinary person by this Bill.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) said that those who had had the conduct of the Bill had always maintained that they would never sanction or accept any part of a measure which would inflict injury upon the clergy or upon members of the Church of England. After the battle they had gone through and the difficulties they had faced it was rather severe for his hon. friend behind him to say that their conduct had been weak and that they were pandering to the Church. What did they, who were Nonconformist, care for ecclesiastical censures? It conferred no temporal loss upon any individual subjected to it, and what the real meaning of "ecclesiastical censure" was he failed to comprehend. The question, however, the House had got to decide was whether they were going to pass the Bill or not, and on behalf of the Government and those who supported the measure he appealed to the House to put no obstacle in its way.

MR. STEWART (Greenock) asked if it were perfectly clear that ecclesiastical censure did not carry with it deprivation, because if it did the person subjected to such censure would suffer civil disability as a consequence. He would be glad to suggest that they should keep to the text of the Amendment as it stood at present, but add the words "no such censure shall carry with it civil disability." If it did not carry with it civil disability his objection would cease.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON reminded the House that the Archbishop had stated in another place the day before that the episcopacy would endeavour to carry out the measure, should it become law, to the best of their ability. He thanked the Government for having given facilities for the Bill, and the supporters of the measure in that House for their unselfish and ungrudging support.

LORD R. CECIL said he thought the hon. Member was wrong when he said the Bishops had accepted the Bill, because they divided against the Third Reading.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

PATENTS AND DESIGNS BILL.

Lords Amendments considered.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Burghs) said that most of these Amendments were purely drafting Amendments, and there were one or two of substance, but they were Amendments which carried out things which he himself had promised before the Bill had left that House.

Lords Amendments agreed to.

PATENTS AND DESIGNS (CONSOLIDATION) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said the Amendments were considerable in number and would take a long time to read. He would suggest therefore that they should be taken by the House *en bloc.* They had been most carefully considered and the Government were prepared to accept them.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) said he had not the slightest intention of opposing the right hon. Gentleman's suggestion to take the Amendments *en bloc.* He thought, however, upon the question that the Amendments be considered he might be permitted to make some observations upon the methods which had been adopted by the Government to pass this Bill. The House would recollect that when they had finished passing the Patents Bill proper at between two and three o'clock in the morning the Consolidation Bill was brought before them and passed, twenty clauses being taken at a time. They did not object to the Bill going through, but they pointed out that the Consolidation Bill was one which ought to be considered by a Select Committee. That course, however, was not followed, yet had the Bill been introduced earlier in the session, as it ought to have been, it could then have been fully and properly considered by a Committee. As it was, however, the House of Lords, having passed the Patents Bill, were called upon two or three minutes later to consider a Consolidation Bill. There also, in that House, the Bill was not going through the proper ordeal of a Select Committee, but the Lords had placed in it, he would not like to say how many, Amendments, all of which had been agreed to in a very few minutes. However, he was quite prepared to accept the right hon. Gentleman's statement that these Amendments had been carefully considered by the Government, and he did not propose to object to their being taken *en bloc*, but at the same time he felt bound to point out that in neither House had the Bill passed through stages through which it was desirable that such Bills should pass.

Lords Amendments agreed to.

CABS AND STAGE CARRIAGES (LONDON) BILL.

Reason for disagreeing to one of the Lords Amendments reported, and agreed to.

To be communicated to the Lords.—(*Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*)

MR. SPEAKER informed the House that until a message was received from the other House in reference to the two Bills that were sent up to them yesterday the business of the House could not be proceeded with. He, therefore, proposed to leave the Chair until such message arrived.

The sitting was suspended at a quarter past Four of the Clock.

The House resumed at a quarter to Eight of the Clock.

EVICTED TENANTS (IRELAND) BILL.

MR. SPEAKER: I have to report to the House that a message has been received from the House of Lords to the following effect:—

That they do not insist on certain of their Amendments to the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill to which this House has disagreed; that they do not insist on one of their Amendments, but propose an Amendment in lieu thereof to which they desire the concurrence of this House.

That they agree to certain other Amendments made by this House to the Amendments made by the Lords without Amendment, and to one other Amendment made by this House with Amendments to which they desire the concurrence of this House. That they disagree to certain other Amendments made by this House, for which disagreement they assign their reason.

MR. BIRRELL said there was nothing in the Amendments which had been made in another place to the Commons Amendments which need occupy their time or prevent their agreeing to them. They related entirely to the machinery of the Bill, which, be its merits or its demerits what they might, they otherwise left as it was. Therefore, he invited the House to agree to the Lords Amendments.

Lords' reason for disagreeing to certain Amendments made by this House, and Lords Amendment instead of the Amendment to which this House hath disagreed, and Lords Amendments to Commons Amendments to Lords Amendments, to be considered forthwith.—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Lords' reason and Amendments considered, and agreed to.

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS BILL.

MR. SPEAKER: I have to report that the following message has been received from the House of Lords:—

That they do not insist on certain of their Amendments to the Small Holdings and Allotments Bill to which the Commons have disagreed; that they do not insist on certain other of their Amendments, but propose others in lieu thereof to which they desire the concurrence of this House.

That they agree to certain of the Amendments made by the Commons to the Amendments made by the Lords to the said Bill without Amendment; that they disagree to one other of the Amendments, but propose an Amendment in lieu thereof, to which they desire the concurrence of this House, and disagree to one other of the Amendments, for which disagreement they assign their reason.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale) said since the House rose last night he had spared no time and no labour to effect conciliation, and he believed and trusted that he had been and should be successful in this. There were six Amendments which had come down from the House of Lords, and he would state generally what they were. The first was an Amendment to Clause 21, to insert after the word "allotment," "and no dwelling house shall be erected for occupation on any allotment of less than three acres." He proposed to ask the House to amend that Amendment by substituting "one acre" for "three acres." An Amendment had come down to them agreed by the Government in the other House on the subject of home farms. These words would be inserted in Clause 30, "or form part of the home farm, attached to, and usually occupied with the mansion house." He would move to agree to those words. On the subject of ancient monuments, of which he had spoken yesterday, another Amendment had come down to which he should move to agree. It omitted the words which were formerly in, "of historic interest," which might cover battlefields and other things that were not being dealt with. In the first schedule, a mere drafting Amendment had been inserted which he would also ask the House to agree to—in line 6, page 25, to insert "except document of title." Then there were the words which were inserted in Committee upstairs, at the desire of his friend the Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme, under a clause of the Schedule, "assessment to rating and taxation." He had made a gallant fight for those words, which were not his own. He felt that he could no longer insist upon them, and, as he had also explained to the House on Report, he believed them to be of no importance, and had no meaning where they were inserted. Finally, another Amendment came down to them substituting arbitration for valuation in the hiring under the Schedule. That was not an Amendment which he could recommend the House to accept, but in place of it he would propose an Amendment which would give to the sitting tenant, the farmer to be displaced, the right to arbitration which he at present possessed under the Agricultural Holdings Act, but of which, under the terms of the Schedule, he might have been deprived as the Bill stood. These were the whole of the Amendments which came to them from the House of Lords, and he asked the House to deal with them as he suggested.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Lords' reasons for disagreeing to one of the Commons Amendments to the Lords Amendments, and Lords Amendments to the Bill, and Lords Amendments to Commons Amendments to Lords Amendments be considered forthwith."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords reason and Amendments considered.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 10, line 12, after the word 'allotment' to insert the words, 'erect a dwelling on not less than three acres,'"

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT moved to substitute "one" for "three."

MR. CHAPLIN (Wimbledon) said he was opposed to the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman, and personally he was in favour of the Amendment of the Lords. He was bound to say that it seemed to him that three acres was an area small enough upon which to erect a dwelling.

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 15, line 27, to insert the words, 'or form part of the home farm attached to, and usually occupied with, the mansion house,'"

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In the First Schedule, page 25, line 40, to insert the following new paragraph:—'The matters to be referred to a valuer before the ending of any tenancy created by compulsory hiring, shall, on the application of either party, be ordered by the Board to be determined by arbitration instead of by a valuer, provided that any costs of the arbitration which the Board may deem to have been incurred by reason of such matters being referred to arbitration instead of to a valuer shall be paid by the party applying for arbitration,'"—

Read a second time.

MR. HARCOURT said that it was impossible for the Government to accept the Amendment of the Lords, because it violated the whole principle that they had asserted from the first—that the rent under hiring must be fixed by valuation. He, therefore, proposed to leave out all the words of the Lords Amendment and to substitute another Amendment providing that, if the land hired was in the occupation of the tenant, he might by notice in writing served on the council before the determination of his tenancy, require that any claim by him against the council might be referred to arbitration under the Agricultural Holdings Acts, and not by valuation under this Bill. This gave the tenant the same right to arbitration for compensation on quitting his holding now obtainable by him under the Agricultural Holdings Acts.

MR. CHAPLIN regretted very much that the right hon. Gentleman had felt himself to be unable to accept the Lords' Amendment. He could not conceive why there should be this difficulty. The right hon. Gentleman said he had been opposed to arbitration in this respect throughout the proceedings on this Bill, and that was perfectly true. But what was the only ground upon which objection was taken to this proposal? Simply the ground of cost. By the Amendment inserted by the Lords which they were now considering the right hon. Gentleman had been deprived of the last shred of excuse for objecting to the proposal. The Amendment affected equally the owner and the tenant; and he could only suppose that, in the opinion of some of the right hon. Gentleman's supporters, the landlord was of such a dreadful and evil disposition, that the right hon Gentleman could not screw up his courage to grant the landlord even this little justice. The benefit of the Amendment was left to the sitting tenant. He had always felt that the case of the sitting tenant had not received sufficient attention, though the Opposition had moved Amendments providing that, when deprived of his holding to promote small holdings, he should be entitled to every compensation that he would have been entitled to if he had received his notice to quit otherwise. The Amendment, therefore, would place the sitting tenant in the position he ought to have occupied in the Bill from the outset. He had no choice but to accept the right hon. Gentleman's proposal, for he could not move an Amendment with any hope of success. But he could not refrain from pointing out that the right hon. Gentleman had addressed the House in different tones from those which he adopted the previous night. Since the right hon. Gentleman made that speech he had carefully searched all the Amendments in order to discover any of the wrecking, destructive character attributed to the House of Lords the previous evening. He had been unable to find one; and he thought that the best refutation of the charges made against the Lords was to be found in the attitude they had maintained throughout these proceedings—namely, a desire to make the measure useful and workable. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh, oh!"] Some hon. Members opposite by that exhibition intended to convey that they did not believe it. He did not know of a single Amendment with regard to which hon. Gentlemen had been able to prove the slightest intention of wrecking the Bill. It was easy to make insinuations and charges of that kind but it was not so easy to prove them. He would not say anything further, because at the close of their proceedings he wished to say nothing of a controversial character, and he would conclude by saying he was heartily glad—and he was sure that opinion was shared by all his friends sitting behind him—that there was a reasonable prospect of the Bill passing into law.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields) thought that something should be said in justification of the action of the Government in refusing to accept this Amendment. The Amendment proposed arbitration instead of valuation, and the parties had to apply to the Board of Agriculture for an order. The Amendment also provided that the parties should be called upon to pay the extra cost as between arbitration and valuation, and the Board would have to assess the difference. That meant that a Board sitting in London would have to consider whether in a particular case the cost of a valuation had been increased by the substitution of arbitration. That would be a very difficult task, indeed. It had been said by those interested in the opposite point of view that something should be said by way of explanation of the Bill on the question as it affected the tenants. As the Bill stood, the valuer would have to consider two things affecting the interest of the tenant. In the first place, the sitting tenant called upon to give up his land for small holdings would have the ordinary rights of an outgoing tenant in regard to his improvements. That compensation under the existing law would be assessed by arbitration under the Agricultural Holdings Act. But the tenant might conceivably have a claim for severance, if he were turned out before he had completed his period of occupation. Under the Bill, that claim would be dealt with by the valuer. It had been urged in another place that such claims ought also to be submitted to arbitration, so far as the tenants were concerned, but he thought those Lords who had discussed the point with the representatives of the Government were disposed to agree that these claims for severance would be very rare indeed, and that it was not worth while to take them out of the valuer's competence, and put them into other hands. The Government believed that the Bill should pass as it stood in that respect. There was only one other point on which he desired to make some observations, and that was with regard to the duties of the valuers. It had been pointed out that as a matter of law the valuer was not bound to receive evidence, and that the difference between the valuer and the arbitrator was that the arbitrator was a judge and that the valuer was a man of business. But that did not mean that the valuer would not make proper inquiries; the schedule of the Bill expressly provided that the valuer should be entitled to receive information on any point affecting the value of the land. The valuer must not go down to the land, walk over it, and then give his opinion founded on his views and theories as to what it ought to be worth. There had been some apprehension expressed in another place as to how the valuers would perform their duties. They would be instructed by the Board of Agriculture that they must perform their duties in a way which would be likely to give satisfaction to the parties. The difference between a valuation and an arbitration would in practice be greatly minimised. With regard to the tenant's right to arbitration, the Government proposed to leave him the right that he had under the present law.

Lords Amendment disagreed to, and Amendment, in lieu thereof, to the effect stated by Mr. Harcourt, agreed to.

Sir W. Robson.

CABS AND STAGE CARRIAGES (LONDON) BILL.

MR. SPEAKER: A message has been received from the House of Lords to the effect that they do not insist on their Amendment to the Cabs and Stage Carriages (London) Bill, to which the Commons have disagreed, but propose other Amendments in lieu thereof, in which they desire the concurrence of this House.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. H. SAMUEL, Yorkshire, Cleveland) stated that the House of Lords had not insisted on their Amendment for the excision of the clause abolishing the privilege cab system. After a somewhat prolonged discussion they had been able to make an arrangement with the opponents of the clause, in consequence of which they had withdrawn their opposition to it. The Amendments of the House of Lords were three in number. Two of them were Amendments of little more than form, and would in no way impair the substance of the clause. The third was to limit the operation of the clause to a period of two years. It was with regret that the Government accepted the Amendment; but he would point out that the Select Committee which considered the matter last year recommended that the privilege system should be abolished experimentally for one year. They had now secured a period of two years, and if the experiment was, as they expected, successful, the clause would be continued from year to year in the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.

Lords Amendments to the Bill, instead of the Amendment to which this House hath disagreed, to be considered forthwith (*Mr. Herbert Samuel*); considered, and agreed to.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Resolved, That this House do meet To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 26th day of July last, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes after Eight o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Wednesday, 28*th August*, 1907.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Appendix (Section IV.) to the Annual Report of the Commissioners, for the year 1905-1906.

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND).

Thirty-ninth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records, for the year 1906.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Regulations made by the Board of Trade under the Weights and Measures Acts, 1904. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

ROYAL COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent:—

1. Prize Courts.
2. Criminal Appeal.
3. Limited Partnerships.
4. Advertisements Regulation.
5. Isle of Man (Customs).
6. Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister.
7. Evicted Tenants (Ireland).
8. Public Health.
9. Patents and Designs.
10. Patents and Designs (Consolidation).
11. Factory and Workshop.
12. Public Health (Regulations as to Food).
13. Education (Administrative Provisions).
14. Judicature (Ireland).
15. Sea Fisheries (Scotland) Application of Penalties.
16. Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils).
17. Small Holdings and Allotments.
18. Council of India.
19. Transvaal Loan (Guarantee).
20. Employers Liability Insurance Companies.
21. Irish Land (No. 2).
22. Cabs and Stage Carriages (London).
23. Vaccination (Scotland).
24. Public Health (Scotland) Amendment.
25. Lights on Vehicles.
26. Vaccination.
27. Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Deduction for Propelling Power).
28. Companies.
29. Qualification of Women (County and Town Councils) (Scotland).
30. Expiring Laws Continuance.
31. Public Works Loans.
32. Whale Fisheries (Scotland).
33. Notification of Births.
34. Sheriff Courts (Scotland).
35. Dumbarton Burgh and County Tramways Order Confirmation.
36. Dumbarton Burgh Order Confirmation.
37. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1).
38. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2.)
39. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3).
40. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4.)
41. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5).
42. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6).
43. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7).
44. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8).
45. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9).
46. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10).
47. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11).
48. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12).
49. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13).

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

50. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14).

51. Local Government Provisional Orders (No 15).

52. Caledonian Railway Order Confirmation.

53. Kilmarnock Corporation Water Order Confirmation.

54. Inverness Royal Academy Order Confirmation.

55. Aberdeen Harbour Order Confirmation.

56. Lanarkshire County Council Order Confirmation.

57. Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, &c.).

58. Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (Additional Capital, &c.).

59. Barry Railway.

60. Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers).

61. London County Council (General Powers).

62. York (Micklegate) Strays.

HIS MAJESTY'S SPEECH.

And afterwards His Majesty's most gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the Lord Chancellor (in pursuance of His Majesty's Command) as followeth—

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

The recent visit of the King and Queen of Denmark, who are closely related to Me, gave great pleasure to the Queen and Myself, and cannot fail to improve the friendly relations existing between the two countries.

I was much gratified at receiving the visit of His Imperial Highness Prince Fushimi, who had been sent on a Special Mission by My Ally, the Emperor of Japan, to convey His Majesty's thanks for the Order of the Garter, bestowed upon him during the Mission of My nephew, Prince Arthur of Connaught, to Japan in 1906.

My relations with foreign Powers continue to be friendly.

My Government, animated by the desire to contribute in every possible way to the maintenance of peace, have concluded an Agreement with the Spanish Government for the preservation of their respective interests in that part of the Mediterranean and Atlantic with which both countries are concerned. The terms of this Agreement have been already laid before you. In response to an invitation from the Russian Government, I appointed Delegates to take part in the International Conference now sitting at the Hague. I trust that its deliberations may result in the conclusion of Agreements that will tend to mitigate the evils of war and secure the peace of the world.

In the great Dependency of India, certain passing difficulties have not discouraged My Government in framing plans for improving the machinery of administration. These plans have been laid before you, and practical steps have already been taken for securing the presence and advice of Indian Members in the Council of India.

The meeting of the Prime Ministers and other leading Statesmen of My Dominions beyond the Seas with the Representatives of the Imperial Government was a source of deep satisfaction to Me, and I note with gratification the arrangement for future meetings at fixed intervals, under the title of "Imperial Conferences," for the free discussion of questions of common concern.

The grant of full self-government to the people of the Orange River Colony has been completed, and will, I trust, conduce to their welfare and contentment.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the liberality with which you have made provision for the needs of the public service and for the reduction of national indebtedness.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

I have recently reviewed the newly-constituted Home Fleet, and was profoundly impressed by the efficient condition and admirable appearance of My ships, and the fine bearing and discipline of the officers and men of all ranks.

Attention has been directed to the problem of the reorganisation of the Forces of the Crown. The broad principles for the reorganisation of the Regular Forces at home into six great divisions have been successfully put into operation. The reorganisation of the Auxiliary Forces into a Home or Second Line Army has been provided for in the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act, which has received My assent. In this Act provision has further been made for filling up serious gaps in the Regular or Field Army of the First Line.

An important measure has received My sanction for facilitating the acquisition of Small Holdings and Allotments in England and Wales, which will afford opportunities of advancement to the rural population, and will, I hope, act as some check on migration to the towns.

I trust that the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal will confirm still further the confidence of the public in the administration of justice.

I have also given My assent to a measure for the amendment of the existing Law relating to Patents and Designs, with a view especially to restraining the abuse of monopolies and to strengthening the provisions in regard to the revocation of British patents which are worked abroad, but which are not adequately worked in this country.

A Bill has also been passed into law for the amendment of the Companies Acts, which, by affording fuller information concerning public companies and by other provisions, will secure a greater degree of protection to creditors, shareholders, and the public generally.

I have also sanctioned an Act which will secure certain administrative improvements in public education, and introduce a system of medical inspection of school children.

I have given My assent to a measure for the purpose of accelerating the process of providing farms for evicted tenants in Ireland.

I have assented to a measure for codifying and in several important particulars altering and improving the whole procedure of the Sheriff Courts in Scotland.

Important measures affecting the public health have been passed into law, providing, among other things, for the more efficient protection of the community against injurious food-stuffs, whether imported or home produced, and for the better notification of births.

A grievance of long standing is removed by the passing of the Act for legalising Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister.

Further measures have been passed for enabling women to serve on Local Bodies in England and Scotland, for giving My Courts a discretionary power to place offenders under the care of probation officers instead of committing them to prison, for the better regulation of the hours and conditions of labour of the women and girls employed in laundries, for protecting the interests of the producers and consumers of butter, for amending the Vaccination Laws in England and Scotland, and for regulating Whale Fisheries in Scotland.

I thank you for the zeal which you have devoted to your arduous labours, and I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may attend their results.

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which the Lord Chancellor said:

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

By virtue of His Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in His Majesty's Name and in obedience to His Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Saturday the Sixteenth day of November next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Saturday the Sixteenth day of November next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 28th August, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the clock.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Appendix to the Seventy-second Report of the Commissioners, being for the year 1905–6. Section IV. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of the Thirty-ninth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records and Keeper of the State Papers in Ireland, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

STEAMSHIP SUBSIDIES.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 27th August; *Mr. Harold Cox*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 359.]

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Copy presented, of Regulations made by the Board of Trade under the Weights and Measures Act, 1904 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 360.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Equivalent Grant to Scotland for School Buildings.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, with regard to the grant of £100,000 for school buildings in England and Wales, he will see that an equivalent grant is made to Scotland.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) In view of this grant it will be my duty to consider what the further needs of Scotland are in respect of education and make representations to the Treasury accordingly, but I am not prepared to admit that we should be fettered by any system of exact equivalents.

Equivalent Grant to Scotland for the Unemployed.

MR. MORTON: To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he will see that, in accordance with the principle of the equivalent grant, Scotland gets a fair share of the £200,000 grant for the unemployed.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I shall certainly do my best to secure that what was done this year shall be repeated next year, viz., that the needs of Scotland in this respect shall be met.

Condition of Piers on the Coasts of Sutherlandshire.

MR. MORTON: To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether anything can be done to put the piers on the East and North coasts of Sutherlandshire in a better condition, so that the fishermen may carry on their business with some degree of safety.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The duty of maintaining such piers lies, as my hon. friend knows, with local authorities, who will, no doubt, consider each case on its merits.

Sale to Commissioners of the Estate of Mr. Franks of Mountrath.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Mathew H. Franks, of Westfield, Mountrath, Queen's County, has offered for sale to the Estates Commissioners his lands situate in the parishes of Ardfert and Ballymacelligott, county Kerry; whether the lands or any portion of them have been inspected by Major Kenny for the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, with what result.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Mr. Franks has instituted proceedings for the sale of the estate in question to the Estates Commissioners. The Commissioners have directed an inspection, but have not yet received the inspector's report.

Possession of Farm of Ballinamona, Mitchelstown.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state whether the farm of Ballinamona, on the Kingston estate, Mitchelstown, is in the landlord's possession; if not, who is the present tenant or occupier; whether the claim of Mr. Thomas Kent for reinstatement in this farm has been inquired into by any inspector from the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, what is the result.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The farm in question is in the landlord's possession. Thomas Kent's application for reinstatement has been inquired into, and the inspector's report on the case will be considered by the Estates Commissioners in due course.

Irish National School Teachers and the Workmen's Compensation Act.

MR. GORDON (Londonderry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any provision has been made, or will be made, by the Commissioners of National Education or the Government to meet any claims that may be made under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1907, by national school teachers in Ireland sustaining personal injury in the discharge of their duties.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I refer to the Answer given by my hon. friend the Secretary to the Treasury to the Question on this subject which was put by the hon. and learned Member for North Armagh on 27th June.†

The Explosion at Lord Ashtown's House.

MR. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the principal police officers who inquired into the alleged outrage at Drumdoe have been recently rewarded by the police authorities for their exertions in this case; whether they proved that outrage was committed by somebody within the house; and whether he can see his way to recommend the appointment of these same officers to inquire into and report on the recent occurrence at Lord Ashtown's house in county Tipperary.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am not at present in a position to add anything to the replies which I gave to Questions on this subject on the 20th instant.‡

Transfer of Local Auditor from Gibraltar to London.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the late local auditor at Gibraltar, who never passed a Civil Service examination for his position, with only seventeen years' service and a salary and allowances amounting to £486 per annum, was transferred back to the Colonial Audit Branch in London as chief examiner at his Colonial rate of £486 per annum; and, if so, seeing that £136 of this Colonial rate was a special local allowance for special work done at Gibraltar, and that his successor at Gibraltar now does this special work and draws this special local allowance for doing it, will he explain why this clerk is now paid more than £350 a year in London.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The officer in question was a member of the old Colonial Audit Branch and not liable to removal from Gibraltar. Arising out of the amalgamation of the Colonial Audit Branch with the Exchequer and Audit Department, it was decided, with the approval of the Colonial Office, as Colonial funds bear the charge, that he should suffer no loss of emoluments on a transfer to headquarters which was made in the interest of the public service.

System of Promotion in the Exchequer and Audit Office.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether seeing that in the Exchequer and Audit Department Mr. Nicholls passed over Mr. Pearson for promotion, that subsequently Mr. Pearson passed over Mr. Nicholls for promotion, that this system of promotion by special selection was a usual thing in the Audit Office for many years past, and caused discontent leading up to the recent reorganisation of that Department, that since this recent reorganisation one of the examiners of the old class, who was asked to retire on pension, was subsequently promoted, that the present principal clerk of the Colonial Audit Branch was promoted over the heads of seven senior and equally efficient officers, that two chief examiners were promoted over the heads of three senior and equally efficient officers, that two examiners were promoted over the heads of four or five senior and equally efficient officers, that one examiner was promoted to £200 per annum over the heads of nine senior and equally efficient officers, and that certain officials are now selected for future promotions irrespective of the claims of senior and equally efficient officers, he will explain how such a system is in the interests of the public service; and, seeing that such a system of promotion by special selection lends itself to favouritism, will he explain why seniority and equality of efficiency are not the standards adopted for promotion in this Department.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I have no reason to suppose that the system of promotion in the Exchequer and Audit Department is different from that adopted in other public Departments. The question as to the relative efficiency of the members of their staff must be left to the judgment of heads of Departments.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxvii., 118–9.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clxxxi., 477–9.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether three clerks in the Colonial Audit Branch, who never passed Civil Service examinations for their positions, and who were on a scale of salary £70—£5—£100, precisely the same as the Second Division scale, were, with less than six years' service in the case of one, and with less than two years' service in the case of the other two, promoted to be examiners with £100 per annum, as from 1st July, 1906; and, if so, will he say why such clerks were thus promoted before the completion of the necessary eight years which a Second Division clerk has to serve before he can be promoted to the similar position of examiner.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I beg to refer the hon. Member to my reply on the same subject of the 6th instant,† to which I have nothing to add.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether seeing that Messrs. Walker, A. W. Brown, Nimmo (temp.), Hall, Gemmell, Hudson, W. H. Sheppard, H. S. Brown, Thompson, Blunden, Marr (temp.), Chalmers (temp.), and Webb (temp.), who were appointed as Second Division clerks 3rd July, 1901, 15th July, 1901, 29th July, 1901, 8th August, 1901, 15th October, 1901, 10th December, 1901, 1st March, 1902, 26th March, 1902, 26th April, 1902, 28th April, 1902, 8th July, 1902, 5th August, 1902, and 17th November, 1902, respectively, were returned to the Civil Service Commission as being redundant on the recent reorganisation of the Exchequer and Audit Department, that Messrs. Collisson and H. St. J. Sheppard (temp.), who were appointed as Second Division clerks on 19th November, 1901, and 19th July, 1902, respectivety, were retained in the Colonial Audit Branch; that Messrs. Eyles and M'Fadden, who were appointed as Second Division clerks on 1st April, 1902, and 7th April, 1902, respectively, were retained in the Exchequer and Audit Department; that the Treasury Minute of August, 1896, lays down that a reduction in the Second Division staff of a Department makes redundant those of its members most recently appointed to the division, not to the Department, and it is their names which should be furnished to the Civil Service Commissioners for the purpose of effecting transfers, he will explain how the retention of Messrs. Collisson, H. St. J. Sheppard (temp.), Eyles, and M'Fadden, who had less service than many of those returned to the Commission, did not contravene the Treasury Minute of August 1896.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The four clerks referred to were specially selected to fill vacancies on the new establishment, and the Treasury Minute referred to does not apply to such cases.

Transfer of Son of Private Secretary to Comptroller and Auditor-General to Gibraltar.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the son of the private secretary to the Comptroller and Auditor-General, who never passed a Civil Service examination for his position and who has only sixteen years service, was transferred from London, where his salary was about £270 per annum, to Gibraltar, with annual emoluments amounting to £436; and, if so, seeing that the object in transferring him to Gibraltar was in order to re-transfer him back to London later on on promotion as chief examiner at his Colonial rate of pay over the heads of officers with twice his service, will he say whether the Imperial Government paid the expenses of this official from London to Gibraltar and also the expenses of the official who was instructed to return from Gibraltar to London in order to make room for him.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The officer referred to was selected for the post in question with due regard both to seniority and efficiency, and the statement in the second part of the Question is without foundation. The expenses referred to have not been borne by Imperial funds.

Transfer of Audit Officials from Colonies to London.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the re-transfer back to London of local auditors in the Crown Colonies and Protectorates at their local rates of pay abroad is part of the amalgamation scheme of the Exchequer and Audit Department and Colonial Audit Branch; and, if so, seeing that these local rates are in many cases very high owing to local conditions, will he consider the advisability of giving instructions to the effect that such high local rates should be revised on the retransfer back to London of any of the local auditors abroad.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clxxix., 1810–1.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) Under the new scheme by which auditors and assistant auditors for the various Colonies are to be selected from the Exchequer and Audit Department, it is in contemplation that while serving abroad they will receive their home rates of pay plus a local allowance. On returning to duty at home they will drop the local allowance.

Appropriations in Aid in Respect of Colonial Audit Branch in London.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will explain why no Appropriations-in-Aid for 1907–8 are to be received from the Crown Colonies and Protectorates in respect of the housing accommodation, fire, and light of the Colonial Audit Branch in London; and why such Appropriations-in-Aid have not been received in respect of previous years.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) It has not hitherto been considered necessary to raise any claim against the Colonies and Protectorates for indirect charges of this nature.

Rates of Leave and Annual Allowances in the War Office Audit Department.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether seeing that the rates of leave and annual allowances permitted to examiners and chief examiners in the Exchequer and Audit Department compare unfavourably with the leave and allowances permitted to corresponding ranks in the War Office, he will explain the difference in the conditions of service in the two Departments which gives rise to this difference in leave and allowances.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I have nothing to add to my previous Answer on this Question.

Treasury Allowance to Upkeep of Audit Department Luncheon Room.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether seeing that £300 profit is now in the hands of the managers of the luncheon room in the Audit Office, he will explain the requirements which necessitate a Treasury allowance of £76 a year towards the upkeep of this luncheon room.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I have nothing to add to the previous Answers on this Question.

Position of Assistant Clerks in the Customs Statistical Office.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether a further memorial has been received from the assistant clerks in the Customs Statistical Office, pointing out inaccuracies in the Treasury reply to a previous memorial; and whether, before a further Treasury reply is sent in answer to this later memorial, he will instruct the responsible Treasury officials to study the conditions of service of these assistant clerks and give practical expression to them.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I must refer the hon. Member to my reply of the 22nd inst. to a Question on this subject by the hon. Member for the Hoxton Division of Shoreditch. If the memorial is forwarded to the Treasury it will, of course, receive careful consideration.

The following Questions and Answers were circulated on Monday, 2nd September, 1907:—

Naval Courts-Martial—Loss of Ships.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state the name and class of any ship lost since the passing of the Naval Discipline Act in 1866, when the custom of the Navy to hold a court-martial, as laid down in Article 91 of the Naval Discipline Act, was not carried out, giving only the cases where there were survivors on whom to hold a court-martial, together with the rank of the senior survivors.

(*Answered by Mr. Lambert.*) The only exceptions to the custom referred to have been the "Fanny," coastguard cruiser, and the "Ariel," torpedo-boat destroyer. In the latter case a court of inquiry was held. The senior survivor of the "Fanny" was the chief quartermaster and of the "Ariel" the lieutenant in command.

Mr. BELLAIRS: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that Parliament in 1866 passed the Naval Discipline Act for the government of the Navy; whether he is aware that Article 91 refers to a ship being deemed to remain in commission after she has been lost, wrecked, or destroyed until a court-martial shall have been held pursuant to the custom of the Navy in such cases to inquire into the cause of the wreck, loss, destruction, or capture of the said ship; and whether this article, together with Articles 92 and 93, providing for the trial of the whole of the surviving officers and crew by one or more courts-martial have been interpreted for many succeeding years to uphold the past custom of the Navy invariably to convene a court-martial when a ship is lost.

(*Answered by Mr. Lambert.*) Section 91 of the Act is not correctly quoted in the Question. The section contains an alternative. The ship is to remain in commission until either the crew shall be regularly removed into some other of His Majesty's ships or a court-martial shall have been held, pursuant to the custom of the Navy, to inquire into the cause of the wreck, loss, destruction, or capture. It has not been the invariable custom to convene a court-martial when a ship is lost, but there have been only two exceptions since the passing of the Act.

Mr. BELLAIRS: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that an Order in Council has been drawn up, revising all existing regulations as to naval courts-martial, and to come into operation on 1st April, 1908; whether he is aware that Article 663 in the proposed Order in Council lays down the duties of the officer convening the court and orders that he is not to convene a court-martial until he has satisfied himself that the evidence, if uncontradicted or unexplained, will probably suffice to insure a conviction; and whether, seeing that this provision contravenes Article 92 of the Naval Discipline Act, 1866, providing that where no specific charge shall be made against any officer, or seaman, or other person in the fleet for or in respect of the wreck, loss, destruction, or capture of his ship, it shall be lawful to try all the officers and crew, or all the surviving officers and crew, of any such ship, he will say what action he proposes to take in the matter in order to safeguard the principle of holding a court-martial whenever a ship is lost or surrendered.

(*Answered by Mr. Lambert.*) The 663rd Article is not correctly quoted, the first and governing words being omitted, viz., "When it is proposed to try a person on any charge." The Article does not deal in any way with trials under Section 92 of the Naval Discipline Act, of which the first and governing words are "When no specific charge shall be made against any officer or seaman, etc." The 663rd Article in no way contravenes Article 92 of the Naval Discipline Act. The two deal with different subjects.

Promotion in Glasgow Telegraph Office.

Mr. WATT (Glasgow, College): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that dissatisfaction exists among the Glasgow telegraph staff on account of the passing over of admittedly capable officers; whether officers of long service have thereby been constrained to ask for their retirement papers; and whether he will have full inquiry made into the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Two appeals have recently been made to me by officers who were not promoted. I am satisfied that on each occasion the officers actually selected were the best qualified of the eligible officers.

Coastguard Service—Men Short or Withdrawn.

Mr. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the changes which are being made in the personnel of the coastguard service, he will be prepared to grant a Return giving the names of the stations from which coastguardsmen have been withdrawn.

(*Answered by Mr. Lambert.*) List of coastguard stations, showing variations from former complements—

Name of station or detachment.	Number of men short of former complement on 1st August, 1907.
Eastern District :—	
Seahouses	1
Newbiggin	1
Seaham Harbour	1
Hawthorne Hive	1
Robin Hood Bay	2
Withernsea	1
Barton	1
Stallingboro'	1
Skegness	1
Morton	1
Lowestoft	1
Aldeburgh	1
Woodbridge Haven	2
Harwich	1
Clacton-on-Sea	1
Shoeburyness	1
Gravesend	1
Isle of Grain	1
Scrapsgate	1
Eastchurch	1
Sea Salter	2
Swale Cliff	1
Birchington	1
Margate	1
Kingsgate	1
Pegwell Bay	1
St. Augustines	1
Sandwich	1
St. Margarets	1
Southern District :—	
Hythe	4
Littlestone	1
Pett	2
Hastings	1
Pevensey	1
Rottingdean	1
Blackrock	1
Southwick	1
Kingston-on-Sea	1
Littlehampton	2
Felpham	3
Thorney	1
Chichester Harbour	1
Hayling Island	2
Eastney	1
Southsea	1
Warsash	1
Sandown	1
Ventnor	2
Blackgang	1
Atherfield	1
Marchwood	1
Beaulieu River	1
Pitts Deep	2
Christchurch	2
Totland	3
South Yarmouth	1
Newtown	1
Gurnard	1
Southbourne	1
Bournemouth	1
Worbarrow	2
Whitenose	2
Osmington	1
Balaclava	1
Fleet	1
Beer	2
Branscombe	1
Budleigh Salterton	1
Teignmouth	1
Mansands	1
Salcombe	2
Western District :—	
Polperro	2
Portscatho	2
Mullion	1
Penzance	1
St. Mary's, Scilly	1
Tresco	1
Appledore	1
Lynmouth	1
Minehead	1
Watchet	1
Angle	1
Fishguard	1
Scottish District :—	
Cockburnspath	1
Dysart	2
West Wemyss	2
Elie	1
Anstruther	1
St. Andrews	1
Carnoustie	1
Usan	1
Johnshaven	1
Bridge of Don	2
Belhelvie	2
Colliston	1
Port Errol	1
Wick	1
Lerwick	1
Ardrossan	1
Rothesay	1
Stornoway	1
Northern Irish :—	
Whiteabbey	2
Bangor	1

Name of station or detachment.	Number of men short of former complement on 1st August, 1907.
Burr Point	1
Killough	1
Tyrella	1
Kilkeel	1
Mouth of Boyne	1
Malahide	2
Sutton	1
Kingstown	1
Arklow	1
Kilmichael	1
Courtown	1
Morris Castle	1
Rosslare	1
Costello Bay	1
Roundstone	1
Bunown	2
Cleggon	1
Tully	1
Rosmoney	1
Achilbeg	1
Belderrig	1
Inniscrone	1
Tribane	1
Portnoo	1
Burton Port	1
Bunbeg	2
Port Kinnigoe	1
Greencastle	2
Banmouth	1
Southern Irish—	
Dunmore	1
Bonmahon	1
Helvick Head	1
Inch	3
Roches Point	1
East Ferry	1
Oyster Haven	1
Upper Cove	1
Castletownsend	1
Ballyally	2
Baltimore	1
Schull	1
Crookhaven	2
Castletown	1
Ballycrovane	1
Lackeen	2
Dingle	1
Ballinagall	1
Fenit	1
Ballyheigue	1
Cashen River	1
Tarbert	1
Kilkee	1
Liscannor	4

The Pacific Cable—Landing at Honolulu.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Admiralty at any time recommended on strategic grounds that the Pacific cable should be landed at Fanning Island instead of Honolulu.

(*Answered by Mr. Lambert.*) The Answer to the Question is in the negative. No strategic value was attached to the landing of the cable either at Fanning or at Honolulu.

Leave of Postal Officials.

SIR GEORGE KEKEWICH (Exeter): To ask the Postmaster-General whether the question of the leave granted to officers of the Post Office has been further considered, having regard to the terms of the Order in Council of the 15th August, 1890, so as to place them on an equal footing with officers of similar rank in other departments.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have not yet come to a decision in the matter.

Limerick Competitions.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether he has received numerous protests from the proprietors of the more responsible newspapers against the encouragement of gambling by the toleration of what are called Limerick competitions.

(*Answered by Sir John Walton.*) I have received several.

Re-addressing of Lodgers' Letters.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can arrange for the re-addressing of lodgers' letters upon the same terms as apply in the case of householders.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The Question put by the hon. Member is practically the same as that put to me on the 16th April last by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, and my Answer must, I fear, be the same as I then gave, viz., that I do not see my way to extending the scope of official redirection. The work of redirection is already a considerable hindrance to the ordinary work of the postmen, and, if it were extended to lodgers' letters, serious delay and inconvenience would be caused. There is not the same need for official redirection in the case of lodgers as in the case of householders. In any case in which good grounds are shown for requiring the assistance of the Post Office in the matter, official redirection is, as far as practicable, undertaken.

Expenditure on the Teluk Ayer Quay at Singapore.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, having regard to the large amount of money the Government propose to expend upon the Tanjong Pagon Dock and Quays at Singapore recently acquired by the Government, he is aware that the mercantile community of Singapore have expressed themselves at meetings and otherwise as strongly opposed to the construction of the Teluk Ayer Quay recently commenced; whether the unofficial members of the Legislative Council have protested against the expenditure of one million of money upon the Teluk Ayer Quay as wasteful; and what steps the Government propose to take, if any, to meet the wishes of the commercial interests involved.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) This question has been fully considered, and the decision to include the proposed works in the Government programme was carried in the Legislative Council by a large majority. The unofficial members were divided in opinion. The Secretary of State has approved the proposals, and a contract has been entered into for carrying out the works.

Pay of Post Office Adult Night Messengers.

MR. NOLAN (Louth, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General, with reference to his statement to the deputation from the Trade Union Congress on the 23rd February, 1906, that he would investigate the claims for increased payment made on behalf of the adult night messengers, and as the recommendations of the Select Committee are concise regarding the class of adult night messengers, will he state if the recommendations of the Select Committee regarding this class of Post Office servants will be carried out on an early date.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The recommendations of the Select Committee on Post Office Servants are being considered by the Government, and their decision will be announced in due course.

Payment of Wages in Post Offices.

MR. NOLAN: To ask the Postmaster-General if he will issue instructions to the postmasters of the five Scotch offices and Newcastle-on-Tyne to arrange that the adult night messengers be paid their weekly wages when leaving off duty on Saturday morning.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The rule of the Department is to pay the weekly wages on the completion of the week's work. I will inquire if this rule is being followed at the offices referred to.

Postmen and Rule 276 (A).

MR. NOLAN: To ask the Postmaster General if Rule 276, paragraph A, in the book of rules for head postmasters, is applicable to postmen wholly employed on indoor duties and who do not effect a delivery on Sunday morning.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The rule applies to all postmen performing a full duty, whether indoors or not.

Fine for Non-Vaccination at Watlington.

MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Henley): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the report of a case recently heard by the magistrates at Watlington, in Oxfordshire, in which a working man was fined 15s. for not having his child vaccinated; whether he has inquired into the circumstances of the case; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I have made inquiry, and I am informed that the man in question applied to the Watlington magistrates on the 17th April for a certificate of exemption from vaccination, but could give no reason for his application or even state that he conscientiously believed that vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of his child; and that, in these circumstances, the four magistrates present were unanimous in declining to grant a certificate. As I have frequently explained, I have no authority to interfere with the discretion in this matter which is given to the magistrates by statute. When the man was subsequently, on the 14th August, summoned before the Watlington Bench for not having had his child vaccinated, the magistrates acted within their powers in imposing a penalty of 15s., which included the costs as well as the fine. I am informed, further, that they allowed the defendant time in which to pay.

Representation of Imperial Institute of Southern India and the Madras Presidency on the India Committee.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will consider, when occasion arises, the propriety of obtaining representation upon the Indian Committee of the Imperial Institute of Southern India and of the Madras Presidency, as well as of Bengal and Bombay.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The arrangements for the administration of the Imperial Institute have been under revision. Under the new scheme, final approval of which will not be long delayed, the Indian Committee will cease to exist.

Pushing of the Indian Indigo Trade.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether it is proposed to raise funds for pushing the sale and increasing the consumption of natural indigo by means of a cess similar to that sanctioned by the Government of India in respect of tea; and whether he will entertain favourably such a proposal should it come before him.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have not received such a proposal. I must reserve my decision until I have a scheme before me and learn how it is supported by the Indian indigo trade.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Transvaal Loan (Guarantee) Bill, Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, Public Works Loans Bill, without Amendment. Amendments to Amendments to—Public Health Bill, Small Holdings and Allotments Bill, without Amendment.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Uganda—Sleeping Sickness Mortality.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state the weekly number of deaths from sleeping sickness in Uganda; and whether the Government will take special measures to prevent the spread of this scourge southwards to Nyassaland.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): I regret that I am unable to give the information asked for in the first part of the hon. Member's Question. The question of the measures to be taken to prevent the spread of sleeping sickness is not one for this Government alone, but for all the Governments in whose African possessions the disease unfortunately exists, and the only prospect of dealing with it effectively appears to be by international co-operation. The International Conference which met in London in June last has already taken some steps in this direction, and when it meets again in November next it is hoped that it will be possible to arrive at a definite agreement on the whole question of the investigation and control of the disease. I should, however, add that the problem of controlling an epidemic of this kind affecting vast areas in the heart of Africa is one which presents enormous difficulties, and that, while every exertion will be made, too much must not be expected, even from international co-operation.

*MR. REES: Is it the case that the mortality is appalling, as to which information reaches me from trustworthy sources?

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, it is very serious indeed.

British Central African Mails.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to a resolution of the Blantyre Chamber of Commerce regarding the inadequacy of the mail service between British Central Africa and London; whether he will consider this question during his approaching visit to the East Coast of

Africa, in view to improving the mail service, which is inferior now to that existing twenty-five years ago, when a fortnightly service existed at Quilimane; and whether the question of providing a British service for the coast of East Africa will engage his attention.

MR. CHURCHILL: No copy of the resolution in question has been sent to the Secretary of State. The whole question of communication with the East Coast of Africa has been and is receiving attention, but the Secretary of State is not in a position to make any announcement on the subject at present.

The Lado Enclave.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if, on his approaching visit to Uganda, he proposes to visit the Lado enclave and look into the question on the spot of the existing lease of that country to the King of the Belgians for the Congo Free State, and how the terms of that lease are being carried out.

MR. CHURCHILL: Questions relating to the Lado enclave do not fall within the province of the Colonial Office. They are matters for the Foreign Office and the Egyptian and Soudanese Governments, and I am not sure that my intervention would be welcomed.

Mortality among Natives on the Rand Mines.

MR. FELL: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention has been called to the Report just published that the rate of mortality among the Chinese labourers in the Rand mines is less than half the rate of mortality among the natives employed there; and if he has received any explanation of the causes of this high death rate among the natives.

MR. CHURCHILL: The hon. Member will see by reference to page 25 of Cd. 2786 that most of the native mortality on the Rand is due to the susceptibility of the native to chest diseases, and especially to pneumonia. The death-rate has, however, fallen from 43·59 per 1,000 in 1904 to 31·661 for the first three months of the present year.

[COMMISSION.]

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went, and having returned,

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Acts. (See p. 425.)

And afterwards His Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the Lord High Chancellor (in pursuance of His Majesty's Commands).

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which the Lord Chancellor said:

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

By virtue of His Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in His Majesty's Name, and in obedience to His Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Saturday the Sixteenth day of November next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Saturday the Sixteenth day of November next.

End of the Second Session of the twenty-eighth Parliament of the United Kingdom and Ireland in the Seventh Year of the Reign of His Majesty King Edward VII.

GENERAL INDEX

TO THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

7 EDWARD VII.

1907.

EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT AND ABBREVIATIONS.

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Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote.

Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply and on the Address in Answer to the King's Speech are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without reference to the actual Vote before the Committee or the King's Speech.

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    - *Q.* Mr. Carlile; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *May 13* [174] 619.
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  - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 20* [169] 830, 831.
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  - *Q.* Mr. Ashley; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 18* [171] 459.
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  - *Qs.* Viscount Castlereagh, Mr. J. C. Wason; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Apr. 16* [172] 760, 761.
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Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department, Ireland

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Os. Mr. S. Wortley, *Apr. 15* [172] 721; Captain Craig, 724; Captain Craig, *Apr. 16*, 781–783; Viscount Castlereagh, 783; Mr. Birrell, 784; Mr. Long, 784, 787; Viscount Turnour, 785, 786; Mr. S. Roberts, *Apr. 16*, 794; Sir F. Lowe, 794, 795;

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Os. Mr. Rawlinson, *Mar. 26* [171] 1713–1715; Viscount Helmsley, 1715; Sir H. Fowler, 1715; Mr. Long, 1716; Lord R. Cecil, 1717; Sir J. Walton, 1718; Mr. S. Wortley, 1719; Mr. S. Evans, 1719; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1719, 1722; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1720-1722; Mr. W. Rutherford, 1722.

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Os. Mr. Fell, *Apr. 16* [172] 855; Mr. Remnant, 855; Mr. McKenna, 855; Viscount Helmsley, 856.

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Os. Sir F. Banbury, *Apr. 16* [172] 866–868; Captain Craig, 868; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 868.

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- Indian, *see under* India.
- Irish Offices, Promotion and Salary Increase in — Recommendations of Sir R. Holmes.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Delany; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Apr. 30* [173] 712; *Apr. 23* [172] 1576, 1577.
- Pensions
    - Commutation, Rule as to.
        - *Q.* Mr. James O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *July 18* [178] 898, 899.
    - Counting of Military Service.
        - *Q.* Sir S. Scott; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *July 22* [178] 1138, 1139.
- Promotions by Selection under Minute of March, 1891.
    - *Q.* Mr. Cleland; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *May 30* [175] 51, 52.
- Promotions from the Ranks Opposed by the Treasury during the last Five Years.
    - *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *May 15* [174] 940.
- Retirement, Regulations as to Age for.
    - *Q.* Mr. Cleland; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Apr. 29* [173] 506, 507.
- Second Division Clerks
    - Annual Leave of.
        - *Q.* Mr. Rendall; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Aug. 15* [180] 1610.
    - Examination for in September.
        - *Q.* Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *June 11* [175] 1239.
    - New Scheme, Information as to.
        - *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Aug. 22* [181] 1113.
        - *Q.* Mr. Alden; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Aug. 22*, 1118, 1119.
    - Promotion, System for.
        - *Q.* Mr. Parker; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *June 4* [175] 494, 495.

[*cont.*

Civil Service—*cont.*
- Second Division Clerks—*cont.*
  - Salaries of.
    - *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 22* [171] 1292.
    - *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Aug. 27* [182] 385.
  - Statistics as to Clerks Entering under Order of 21st March, 1890.
    - *Q.* Mr. Cleland; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Apr. 29* [173] 507, 508.
- Superannuation, *see that title.*
- Temporary Clerks, Retirement of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Hay; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Aug. 20* [181] 437.
- Women Typists, Pay of — Reply to Memorial.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Thornton; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Apr. 22* [172] 1419.
- Writers, Case of.
  - *Qs.* Sir G. Kekewich; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Aug. 14* [180] 1309.
  - *Q.* Sir G. Kekewich; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Aug. 20* [181] 474.

Civil Service Commission
- Report Presented, *July 8* [177] 1039, 1132.
- Vote for, *Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Mar. 13* [171] 68; *July 31* [179] 1057; *Aug. 1,* 1235.

Civil Service Estimates
- Art and Science Buildings
  - £25,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 67.
  - £47,400, *Com., Apr. 8* [172] 67; *Rep.* Apr. 9,* 190.
- Bankruptcy Department of Board of Trade.
  - £500, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 67.
  - £1,508, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1057; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1235.
- Board of Agriculture and Fisheries
  - £60,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 67.
  - £77,840, *Com., May 23* [174] 1167.
- Board of Education.
  - £6,593, 646, *Com., July 11* [178] 65, 140; *July 31* [179] 1065, *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1237.
  - £7,000,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1274; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 67.
- Board of Trade—£90,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 67.
- British Museum
  - £60,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1277; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 69.
  - £111,041, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1065; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1237.
- Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum.
  - £12,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1276; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 68.

Civil Service Estimates—*cont.*
- Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum—*cont.*
  - £24,128, *Com.* May 23* [174] 1227.
- Charity Commission
  - £15,000, *Com.* Mar, 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 67.
  - £15,892, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1075; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1235.
- Civil Contingencies Fund Repayments—£14,439, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1080; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1239.
- Civil Service Commission
  - £17,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 68.
  - £23,750, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1057; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1235.
- Class 3, Vote 14, Sub-head F., Supply of Details under, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Apr. 25* [173] 249.
  - *Q.* Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *May 2* [173] 1050.
- Colonial Office
  - £25,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1274; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 67.
  - £35,700, *Com., June 20* [176] 697.
  - £37,900, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1057; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1235.
- Colonial Services
  - –£350,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1277; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 69.
  - £910,289, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1071; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1238.
- County Courts
  - £2, *Com., Mar. 11* [170] 1276; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 68.
  - £3, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1061; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1236.
- Customs
  - £350,000, *Com., Mar. 11* [170] 1277; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 70.
  - £427,000, *Com., Apr. 8* [172] 42; *Rep.* Apr. 9,* 190.
  - £608,700, *Com., May 16* [174] 1120.
- Cyprus Grant-in-Aid
  - £1,000, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1071; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1238.
  - £49,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1277; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 69.
- Diplomatic and Consular Buildings
  - £50,000, *Com. Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 67.
  - £50,700, *Com.* Apr. 8* [172] 30; *Rep.* Apr. 9,* 190, 191.
- Diplomatic and Consular Services
  - £250,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1277; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 69.
  - £319,340, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1071; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1238.

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Civil Service Estimates—*cont.*

Exchequer and Audit Department
- £25,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1275; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 68.
- £39,400, Com., May 16 [174] 1116.

Foreign Office
- £24,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1275; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 67.
- £40,698, Com.* July 31 [179] 1057; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1235.

Friendly Societies Registry
- £3,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1275; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 68.
- £5,624, Com.* July 31 [179] 1057; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1235.

Harbours under Board of Trade
- £15,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1275; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 67.
- £16,740, Com.* July 31 [179] 1052; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1235.

Home Office
- £70,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1275; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 67.
- £128,735, Com.* June 27 [177] 198; July 18 [178] 932; July 31 [179] 1057; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1235.

House of Commons Offices
- £20,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1275; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 67.
- £22,800, Com.* July 31 [179] 1057; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1235.

House of Lords Offices
- £10,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1275; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 67.
- £17,543, Com.* July 31 [179] 1057; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1235.

Houses of Parliament Buildings
- £20,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1274; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 67.
- £32,400, Com., Apr. 8 [172] 70; Rep.* Apr. 9, 191.

Inland Revenue
- £830,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1277; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 70.
- £1,694,300, Com., May 16 [174] 1142.

Ireland

Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department.
- £10,000, Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 68.
- £90,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1276.
- £113,817, Com., July 25 [179] 159.

Charitable Donations and Bequest Office
- £1,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1276; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 68.
- £1,051, Com.* July 31 [179] 1058; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1236.

Civil Service Estimates—*cont.*

Ireland—*cont.*

Chief Secretary Offices, etc.
- £10,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1276; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 68.

Chief Secretary, Salaries and Expenses, and Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums.
- £17,756, Com., July 25 [179] 202; July 31 [179] 1058; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1236.

Constabulary
- £600,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1276; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 69.
- £721,499, Com.* July 31 [179] 1062; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1237.

County Court Officers
- £45,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1276; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 69.
- £66,298, Com.* July 31 [179] 1062; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1237.

Development Grant
- £100,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1277; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 70.
- £85,000, Com.* July 31 [179] 1080; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1238.

Dublin Metropolitan Police
- £60,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1276; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 69.
- £36,985, Com., May 2 [173] 1087; Rep.* May 23 [174] 1228.

Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum
- £4,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1276; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 69.
- £3,262, Com.* July 31 [179] 1062; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1237.

Education
- £648,360, Com.* July 31 [179] 1067; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1237.
- £760,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1277; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 69.

Endowed Schools Commissioners
- £400, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1277; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 69.
- £510, Com.* July 31 [179] 1067; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1237.

Hospitals and Miscellaneous Charitable Allowances
- £139, Com., May 16 [174] 1148; Com.* July 31 [179] 1076; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1238.
- £17,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1277; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 69.

Land Commission
- £100,000, Com.* Mar. 11 [170] 1276; Rep.* Mar. 13 [171] 69.
- £139,050, Com.* July 31 [179] 1062; Rep.* Aug. 1, 1237.

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Civil Service Estimates—_cont._

Ireland—_cont._

Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions

£25,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 69.

£37,872, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1062; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1237.

Legal Buildings—£46,600, _Com.* Apr. 8_ [172] 68; _Rep.* Apr. 9,_ 190.

Local Government Board

£30,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.

£46,411, _Com., May 2_ [173] 1139; _Rep.* May 23_ [174] 1228.

Lord Lieutenant's Household

£2,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.

£2,632, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1058; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1236.

National Gallery

£2,000, _Mar. 11_ [170] 1277; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 69.

£1,147, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1067; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1237.

Prisons

£52,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 69.

£62,556, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1062; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1237.

Public Record Office

£2,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.

£3,580, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1058; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1236.

Public Works Office

£16,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.

£24,568, _Com., May 2_ [173] 1113, 1138; _Rep.* May 23_ [174] 1228.

Public Works and Buildings

£95,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 67.

£122,829 _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1052; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1235.

Queens Colleges

£2,200, _Com., July 4_ [177] 888; _July 31_ [179] 1068; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1237.

£2,500, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1277; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 69.

Railways

£35,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 67.

£26,270, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1052; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1237.

Reformatory and Industrial Schools

£55,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 69.

Civil Service Estimates—_cont._

Ireland—_cont._

Reformatory and Industrial Schools—_cont._

£55,251, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1062; _Rep.* Aug. 1_ ,1239.

£5,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.

£7,332, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1058; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1236.

Supreme Court of Judicature, etc.

£43,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 69.

£59,086, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1062; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1237.

Valuation and Boundary Survey

£7,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.

£14,848, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1058; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1236.

Jamaica Earthquake, Aid Grant—£150,000, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1071; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1238.

Land Registry

£16,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.

£22,813, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1061; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1236.

Law Charges

£30,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.

£42,774, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1061; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1236.

£85,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.

£147,782, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1057; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1235.

Local Loans Fund Repayments—£4,601, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1079; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1238.

Lunacy Commission

£5,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.

£10,905, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1057; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1235.

Mercantile Marine Services

£32,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 67.

£72,816, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1057; _Rep.* Aug. 1,_ 1235.

Mint (including Coinage)

£5, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.

£41, _Com., May 16_ [174] 1117.

Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances

£1,150, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1277; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 69.

£368, _Com. May 16_ [174] 1148.

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Civil Service Estimates—_cont._
- Miscellaneous Expenses
  - £7,943, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1277; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 70.
  - £46,151, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1079; _Rep.* Aug. 1_, 1238.
- Miscellaneous Legal Buildings
  - £30,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1274; _Rep.* Mar 13_ [171] 67.
- Miscellaneous Legal Expenses
  - £21,944, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1061; _Rep.* Aug. 1_, 1236.
  - £28,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.
- National Debt Office
  - £6,000, _Com.* Mar._ 11 [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.
  - £8,153, _Com., May 16_ [174] 1119.
- National Gallery
  - £10,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1277; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 69.
  - £7,233, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1066; _Rep.* Aug. 1_, 1237.
- National Portrait Gallery
  - £2,897, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1066; _Rep.* Aug. 1_, 1237.
  - £3,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1277; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 69.
- Osborne
  - £5,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1274; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 67.
  - £9,100, _Com., Apr. 8_ [172] 26; _Rep.* Apr. 9_, 190.
- Police
  - £15,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.
  - £25,036, _Com., July 31_ [179] 1061; _Rep.* Aug. 1_, 1236.
  - £6,250,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1277; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 70.
  - £11,117,751, _Com., May 9_ [174] 375; _July 31_ [179] 1086; _Rep.* Aug. 1_, 1240.
- Presented, together with Memorandum of Secretary, _Feb. 26_ [169] 1400.
- Prisons
  - £320,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.
  - £407,605, _Com., May 23_ [174] 1211.
- Privy Council Office
  - £5,000, _Com., Mar. 11_ [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 67.
  - £6,120, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1057; _Rep., Aug. 1_, 1235.
- Privy Council for Trade and Subordinate Departments—£184,484, _Com., June 27_ [177] 135.
- Public Buildings
  - £200,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 67.

Civil Service Estimates—_cont._
- Public Buildings—_cont._
  - £313,000, _Com., Apr. 8_ [172] 51; _Rep.* Apr. 9_, 190.
- Public Record Office
  - £10,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.
  - £14,190, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1057; _Rep.* Aug. 1_, 1236.
- Public Works Loan Commission
  - £500, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.
  - £290,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 67.
  - £348,700, _Com., May 16_ [174] 1112.
- Reformatory and Industrial Schools
  - £130,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1296; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.
  - £127,105, _Com.* May 23_ [174] 1227.
- Registrar-General's Office
  - £15,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 68.
  - £25,994, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1057; _Rep.* Aug. 1_, 1236.
- Revenue Buildings—£210,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1275; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 67.
- Royal Palaces
  - £20,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1274; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 67.
  - £43,000, _Com., Apr. 8_ [172] 18; _Rep.* Apr. 9_, 189.
- Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens
  - £50,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1274; _Rep.* Mor. 13_ [171] 67.
  - £91,000, _Apr. 8_ [172] 68; _Rep.* Apr. 9_, 191, 192; _Apr. 10_, 328.
- Salisbury Memorial—£2,100, _Com.* Apr. 8_ [172] 72; _Rep.* Apr. 9_, 191.
- Savings Banks and Friendly Societies' Deficiencies—£145,940, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1076; _Rep.* Aug. 1_, 1238.
- Scientific Investigations
  - £24,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1274; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 67.
  - £30,479, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1066; _Rep.* Aug. 1_, 1237.
- Scotland
  - Crofters Commission
    - £2,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1276; _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 69.
    - £2,545, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1062; _Rep.* Aug. 1_, 1236.
  - Education
    - £760,000, _Com.* Mar. 11_ [170] 1177.
    - £850,000, _Rep.* Mar. 13_ [171] 69.
    - £1,183,554, _Com.* July 31_ [179] 1066; _Rep.* Aug. 1_, 1237.

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Civil Service Estimates—*con*.
- Scotland—*con*.
  - Fishery Board
    - £5,000, *Com.*, *Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [71] 68.
    - £12,641, *Com.*, *May 30* [175] 101.
  - Law Charges and Courts of Law
    - £30,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1276; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 69.
    - £50,706, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1061; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1236.
  - Local Government Board
    - £5,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1276; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 68.
    - £10,887, *Com.*, *May 30* [175] 157.
  - Lunacy Board—£3,799, *Com.*, *May 30* [175] 168.
  - Lunacy Commission
    - £2,500, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 68.
    - £3,799, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1058; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1236.
  - National Galleries
    - £3,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1277; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 69.
    - £2,416, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1067; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1237.
  - Peterhead Harbour
    - £10,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 69.
    - £21,988, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1052; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1235.
  - Prisons
    - £35,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1276; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 69.
    - £53,650, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1062; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1236.
  - Register House, Edinburgh
    - £15,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1276; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [174] 69.
    - £27,700, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1061; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1236.
  - Registrar-General's Office
    - £1,500, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1276; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 68.
    - £2,978, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1058; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1236.
  - Secretary, Office of
    - £25,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 68.
    - £11,086, *Com.*, *May 30* [175] 143.
- Secret Service
  - £10,000, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1058; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1236.
  - £40,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 68.

Civil Service Estimates—*cont.*
- Stationery and Printing—£330,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 68.
  - £418,053, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1057; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1236.
- Superannuation and Retired Allowances
  - £300,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1277; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 69.
  - £373,400, *Com.*, *May 16* [174] 1148.
- Supplementary
  - Amount required for sundry Colonial Services—Estimate Presented, *May 9* [174] 335.
  - Chief Secretary for Ireland, Vote for Salaries and Expenses of Offices of—£255, *Com.*, *Feb. 21* [169] 1105; *Rep.*, *Mar. 12* [170] 1491.
  - Colonial Services—£32,470, *Com.*, *Feb. 26* [169] 1463; *Rep.*, *Mar. 6* [170] 857.
  - Crofters' Commission—£140, *Com.*, *Feb. 21* [169] 1127; *Rep.*, *Mar. 12* [170] 1492.
  - Estimate Presented, *Feb. 14* [169] 288; *July 22* [178] 1129.
  - House of Commons Offices—£1,550, *Com.*, *Feb. 21* [169] 1091; *Rep. Mar. 12* [170] 1491.
  - Houses of Parliament—£5,700, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1052; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1235.
  - Houses of Parliament Buildings—£11,900, *Com.*, *Feb. 21* [169] 1067; *Rep.*, *Mar. 12* [170] 1491.
  - Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens—£2,300, *Com.*, *Feb. 21* [169] 1057; *Rep.*, *Mar. 12* [170] 1491.
  - School Boards' Expenditure in Scotland—£11,000, *Com.*, *Feb. 21* [169] 1131; *Rep.*, *Mar. 12* [170] 1492.
  - Supreme Court of Judicature, £2,000, *Com.* Feb. 21* [169] 1110; *Rep.*, *Mar. 12* [170] 1492.
  - Temporary Commissions, Committees, and Special Inquiries—£10,000, *Feb. 26* [169] 1509; *Rep.* Mar. 6* [170] 857, 923; *Mar. 12* [170] 1455.
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  - £177,556, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1061; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1236.
- Surveys
  - £90,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1275 *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 67.
  - £118,905, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1052; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1235.
- Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable
  - £25,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1277; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 69.
  - £26,776, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1071; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1238.

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  - £36,000, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1079; *Rep., Aug. 1*, 1238.
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  - £60,919, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1057; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1235.
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  - £60,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1277; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 69.
  - £141,400, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1066; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1237.
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  - £3,454, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1066; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1237.
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  - £8,000, *Com.* Mar. 11* [170] 1275; *Rep.* Mar. 13* [171] 68.
  - £13,398, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1058; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1236.
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  - £200,000, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1080; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1239.
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  - £52,596, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1058; *Rep.* Aug. 1*, 1236.

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    - *Q.* Mr. Wilkie; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 3* [175] 311, 312.
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  - *Qs.* Captain Craig; *As.* Mr. Cherry, *May 16* [174] 1106, 1107.
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  - *Q.* Mr. H. Law; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 22* [169] 1145.

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  - *Q.* Mr. O'Shee; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 25* [171] 1467.

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  - *Q.* Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *Aug. 5* [179] 1554, 1555.

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  - *Qs.* Mr. Sloan; *As.* Mr. R. Barry, *July 3* [177] 699, 700.
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Q. Mr. Everett; *A.* Mr. S. Wortley, *Mar. 11* [170] 1265, 1266.
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Q. Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr. S. Wortley, *May 11* [170] 1217, 1218.
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Q. Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr. S. Wortley, *Mar. 11* [170] 1264.
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Qs. Mr. Wedgwood, Mr. L. Jones; *As.* Mr. Tomkinson, *June 6* [175] 858.
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Qs. Mr. Ashley, Mr. P. Pease, Mr. Moore, Mr. J. Ward; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *May 30* [175] 77–79.
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Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 13* [171] 19.
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Q. Mr. Bertram; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Feb. 21* [169] 1006.
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Qs. Mr. Lane-Fox; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Aug. 7* [180] 76; *Aug. 13* 1046, 1047.
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  - *Q.* Mr. Massie; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 13* [175] 1605.
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  - *Q.* Mr. Montgomery; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *July 1* [177] 325.
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    - *Q.* Sir F. Banbury; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 12* [170] 1427.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Carlile, Lord Balcarres; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 14* [171] 243.
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Attorney-General—Rt. Hon. R. R. Cherry
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Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *May 13* [174] 597.

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    - *Os.* Mr. Barrie, *May 2* [173] 1151; Mr. Cherry, 1154.
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Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Apr. 10* [172] 228, 229.
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Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *May 15* [174] 965, 966.
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Local Government Board (Scotland)
Report (1906) Presented, *May 6* [173] 1202, 1300.
Q. Mr. Morton; *A.* Mr. Shaw, *May 16* [174] 1103.
Vote for, *Mar. 11* [170] 1276; *Mar. 13* [171] 68; *May 30* [175] 157.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill
l. 1R.* *May 2* [173] 995.
2R.* *June 3* [175] 242.
*Rep.** *June 25* [176] 1013.
*Com.** *June 26*, 1258.
*Rep.** *June 27* [177] 2.
3R.* *July 1*, 270.
c. 1R.* *July 2*, 503.
2R.* *July 16* [178] 511.
*Rep.** *July 25* [179] 107.
3R.* *July 26*, 239.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 2*, 1373.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill
c. 1R.* *May 24* [174] 1229.
2R.* *June 4* [175] 462.
*Rep.** *June 13*, 1559.
3R.* *June 14* [176] 2.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill—*cont.*
l. 1R.* *June 17*, 103.
2R.* *June 18*, 281.
*Rep.** *July 2* [177] 485.
*Com.** *July 3*, 649.
3R.* *July 4*, 815.
Royal Assent, *July 26* [179] 237.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill
c. 1R.* *May 24* [174] 1229.
2R.* *June 5* [175] 650.
*Rep.** *July 2* [177] 503.
3R.* *July 4*, 842.
l. 1R.* *July 4*, 816.
2R., *July 17* [178] 650.
*Rep.** *July 23*, 1281.
*Com and Rep.** *July 25* [179] 2.
3R.* *July 29*, 378.
Royal Assent, *Aug. 2*, 1373.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 13* [169] 154.
2R.* *Feb. 21*, 1141.
*Rep.** *Mar. 14* [171] 187.
3R.* *Mar. 15*, 337.
l. 1R.* *Mar. 18*, 408.
2R.* *Apr. 25* [173] 178.
*Rep.** *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com, *Rep.* and 2R.* *Aug. 21*, 706.
c. Lords Amendts., *Con.** *Aug. 22*, 1074.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 426.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 23* [171] 1365.
2R.* *Apr. 10* [172] 193.
*Rep.** *May 30* [175] 45.
3R.* *May 31*, 169.
l. 1R.* *June 3*, 242.
2R.* *June 12*, 1341.
*Rep.** *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com. Rep. and 3R.* *Aug. 21*, 706.
c. Lords Amendts., *Con.** *Aug. 22*, 1074.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 426.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 23* [171] 1365.
2R.* *Apr. 10* [172] 193.
*Rep.** *Apr. 18*, 1102.
3R.* *Apr. 19* [172] 1257.
l. 1R.* *Apr. 22*, 1342.
2R.* *May 6* [173] 1202.
*Rep.** *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com., *Rep.*, and 3R.* *Aug. 21*, 706.
Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 426.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill
c. 1R.* *Apr. 12* [172] 493.
2R.* *Apr. 23*, 1543.
*Rep.** *May 9* [174] 333.
3R.* *May 10*, 461.
l. 1R.* *May 13*, 534.
2R.* *June 5* [175] 609.
*Rep.** *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com. Rep., and 3R.* *Aug. 21*, 706.
c. Lords Amendts., *Con.** *Aug. 22*, 1074.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 426.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill

c. 1R.* *May 3* [173] 1165.
2R.* *May 14* [174] 765.
Rep. *May 30* [175] 45.
Con. *May 31,* 169.
3R.* *June 3,* 251.
l. 1R.* *June 4,* 418.
2R.* *June 12,* 1341.
Rep. *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com., Rep., and 3R.* *Aug. 21,* 706.
c. Lords Amendts., *Con.* Aug. 22,* 1075.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 426.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill

c. 1R.* *May 3* [173] 1165.
2R.* *May 14* [174] 765.
Rep. *June 17* [176] 105.
Con. *June 18,* 283.
3R.* *June 19,* 437.
l. 1R.* *June 20,* 581.
2R.* *July 4* [177] 815.
Rep. *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com., Rep., and 3R.* *Aug. 21,* 706.
Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 426.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill

c. 1R.* *May 7* [174] 47.
2R.* *May 24,* 1229.
Rep. * *July 4* [177] 843.
3R.* *July 8,* 1130.
l. 1R.* *July 9,* 1294.
2R.* *July 23* [178] 1282.
Rep. *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com., Rep., and 3R.* *Aug. 21,* 706.
c. Lords Amendts., *Con.* Aug. 22,* 1075.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 426.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill

c. 1R.* *May 8* [174] 200.
2R.* *May 24,* 1229.
Rep. *July 3* [177] 673.
Con. *July 4,* 842.
3R.* *July 8,* 1130.
l. 1R.* *July 9,* 1294.
2R.* *July 23* [178] 1282.
Rep. *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com., Rep., and 3R., *Aug. 21,* 707.
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2R.* *May 24,* 1229.
Rep. *July 4* [177] 843.
Con. *July 8,* 1130.
3R.* *July 9,* 1410.
l. 1R.* *July 10,* 1537.
2R.* *July 23* [178] 1282.
Rep. *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com., Rep., and 3R.* *Aug. 21,* 707.
c. Lords Amendts., *Con.* Aug. 22.* 1075.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 426,

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill

c. 1R.* *May 8* [174] 201.
2R.* *May 24,* 1229.
Rep. *July 18* [178] 893.
Con. *July 19,* 1021.
3R.* *July 22,* 1125.
l. 1R.* *July 23,* 1282.
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Rep. *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com., Rep. and 3R.* *Aug. 21,* 707.
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l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 426.

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c. 1R.* *May 14* [174] 765.
2R.* *May 28,* 1460.
Rep. *June 26* [176] 1357.
3R.* *June 27* [177] 64.
l. 1R.* *July 1,* 270.
2R.* *July 23* [178] 1282.
Rep. *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
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c. Lords Amendts., *Con.* Aug. 23,* 1372.
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c. 1R.* *May 14* [174] 765.
2R.* *May 28,* 1460.
Rep. *July 4* [177] 843.
Con. *July 8,* 1130.
3R.* *July 9,* 1410.
l. 1R.* *July 10,* 1537.
2R.* *July 23* [178] 1282.
Rep. *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com., Rep., and 3R.* *Aug. 21,* 707.
c. Lords Amendts, *Con.* Aug. 22,* 1075.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 426.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill

c. 1R.* *May 16* [174] 1075.
2R.* *May 28,* 1460.
Rep. *June 27* [177] 65.
Con. *June 28,* 209.
3R.* *July 2,* 502.
l. 1R.* *July 3,* 649.
2R.* *July 23* [178] 1282.
Rep. *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com., Rep., and 3R.* *Aug. 21,* 707.
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c. 1R.* *May 16* [174] 1075.
2R.* *May 28,* 1460.
Rep. *June 26* [176] 1357.
Con. *June 27* [177] 64.
3R.* *June 28* [177] 209.
l. 1R.* *July 1,* 270.
2R.* *July 23* [178] 1282.
Rep. *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com., Rep., and 3R.* *Aug. 21,* 707.
c. Lords Amendts., *Con.* Aug. 22,* 1074.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 427.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill
c. 1R.* *May 30* [175] 44.
2R.* *June 11*, 1196.
*Rep.** *July 4* [177] 843.
*Con.** *July 8*, 1130.
3R.* *July 9*, 1410.
l. 1R.* *July 10*, 1537.
2R.* *July 23* [178] 1282.
*Rep.** *Aug. 20* [181] 341.
Com., *Rep.* and 3R.* *Aug. 21*, 707.
c. Lords Amendts., *Con.** *Aug. 22*, 1074.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 427.

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Q. Mr. Fell; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *June 13* [175] 1603.

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Q. Mr. W. Hope; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 1* [177] 333.
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Q. Mr. W. Hope; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Apr. 18* [172] 1122.

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Q. Mr. Jenkins; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Apr. 23* [172] 1554.

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l. 1R.* *Apr. 29* [173] 464.
2R., *May 28* [174] 1456.
Rep. *July 23* [178] 1283.
Com., *July 29* [179] 393.
Rep. *Aug. 6*, 1690.
3R., *Aug. 8* [180] 233.

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c. 1R.* *Mar. 25* [171] 1527.
2R., *May 24* [174] 1267.
Rep. *July 17* [178] 710.
Com., *Aug. 1* [179] 1345.
Rep. *Aug. 1*, 1372.
Con., 3R., *Aug. 2* 1456, 1457.
l. 1R.* *Aug. 2*, 1374.
2R., *Aug. 14* [180] 1259.
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Rep., *Aug. 20* [181] 429.
3R.* *Aug. 21*, 811.
c. Lords Amendts, *Con.* *Aug. 27* [182] 413.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 426.

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Q. Mr. J. Devlin; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *May 7* [174] 52, 53.

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Q. Mr. J. Ward; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *May 15* [174] 961.
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Q. Mr. Watt; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George *Apr. 15* [172] 601.

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Os. Marquess of Salisbury, Earl of Granard, *Aug. 15* [180] 1571.

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Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Mar. 27* [171] 1813, 1814.

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Os. Lord R. Cecil, *Aug. 5* [179] 1563, 1629–1634, 1639, 1641, 1649; Mr. McKenna, 1630, 1639–1641, 1647, 1651, 1659, 1669,; Mr. Lane-Fox, 1634, 1638; Sir W. Anson, 1641–1645; Mr. O. Williams, 1645; Mr. E. Cecil, 1646–1648; Sir. J. Walton, 1648–1651; Mr. Lyttelton, 1650–1651; Mr. W. Jones, 1653–1655; Mr. Cave, 1655; Mr. Yoxall, 1656; Mr. Rees, 1657; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 1658–1662; Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Aug. 15* [180] 1632; Sir W. Anson, 1703–1705; Mr. McKenna, 1704; Marquess of Salisbury, *Aug. 16*, 1793; Earl of Crewe, 1802.
Q. Lord R. Cecil; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *July 17* [178] 693.
Qs. Lord R. Cecil, Mr. Yoxall, Mr. Lyttelton, Mr. E. Cecil; *As.* Mr. McKenna, Mr. Speaker, *July 31* [179] 959–961.
Qs. Lord R. Cecil, Lord E. Talbot, Sir W. Anson; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Aug. 5* [179] 1539–1542.
Qs. Mr. Lane-Fox, Mr. H. Williams, Mr. Lyttelton, Lord Balcarres, Mr. P. Pease; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Aug. 8* [180] 331, 332.
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Qs. Lord Balcarres, Lord R. Cecil, Mr. Lyttelton; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Aug. 19* [181] 154, 155.
Qs. Lord Balcarres, Lord R. Cecil; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Aug. 21* [181] 851, 852.
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Qs. Lord Balcarres, Lord R. Cecil, Mr. Lyttelton; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Aug. 26* [182] 169, 170.
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Q. Sir J. Brunner; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Mar. 5* [170] 616.

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Q. Mr. Fell; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 7* [170] 970.

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l. 1R.* *Feb. 18* [169] 494.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.
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3R.* *June 17* [176] 66.
c. 1R.* *June 18*, 285.
2R.* *July 1* [177] 320.
Rep. *July 22* [178] 1126.
Con. *July 29* [179] 438.
3R.* *Aug. 1*, 1184.
l. Commons Amendts., *Con.* *Aug. 6*, 1689.
Royal Assent, *Aug. 9* [180] 485.

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Qs. Mr. Bowles; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Mar. 26* [171] 1642; *Apr. 18* [172] 1138; *Apr. 25* [173] 265.

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Os. Mr. W. Rutherford, *Apr. 8* [172] 61.

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Q. Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 19* [171] 645.

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c. 1R.* *Feb. 27* [170] 17.
2R.* *Mar. 12* [170] 1385.
Rep. *Mar. 22* [171] 1263.
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l. 1R.* *Mar. 26*, 1617.
Rep. *May 14* [174] 733.
Com. and *Rep.* *May 15*, 921.
3R.* *May 16*, 1070.
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Qs. Dr. Cooper; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Aug. 22* [181] 1146

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l. 1R.* *Feb. 18* [169] 494.
2R.* *Feb. 27* [170] 1.
*Rep.** *Apr. 30* [173] 629.
3R.* *May 6*, 1201.
c. 1R.* *May 7* [174] 48.
2R.* *May 23*, 1150.
*Rep.** *June 6* [175] 807.
*Con.** *June 12*, 1391.
3R.* *June 17* [176] 105.
l. Commons Amendts., *Con.** *June 18*, 281.
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Q. Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 19* [171] 661.

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Q. Colonel Lockwood; *A.* Mr. Burns, *May 15* [174] 943.

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c. 1R.* *Feb. 14* [169] 284.
2R., *Feb. 28* [170] 328.
*Rep.** *June 26* [176] 1357.
Con., *July 23* [178] 1475; *Aug. 6*, 1941.
3R.* *Aug. 9*, 565.
l. 1R.* *Aug. 9* [180] 485.
2R.* *Aug. 14*, 1201.
3R., *Aug. 20* [181] 342.
c. Lords Amendts., *Con.** *Aug. 21*, 816.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 427.

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c. 1R.* *Feb. 14* [169] 284.
2R.* *Feb. 20*, 813.
*Rep.** *June 26* [176] 1357.
Con., *July 24* [178] 1723.
3R.* *July 29*, 438.
l. 1R.* *July 29* [179] 377.
2R.* *Aug. 6*, 1689.
3R.* *Aug. 15* [180] 1513.
c. Lords' Amendts., *Con.** *Aug. 20* [181] 434.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 28* [182] 427.

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*Rep.** *Mar. 19* [171] 597.
3R.* *Apr. 16* [172] 729.
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2R.* *Apr. 29* [173] 488.
*Rep.** *May 9* [174] 333.
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l. Commons Amendts., *Con.** *June 3* [175] 242.
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l. 1R.* *Mar. 5* [170] 597.
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3R.* *June 17* [176] 66.
c. 1R.* *June 18*, 285.
2R.* *July 1* [177] 320.
*Rep.** *July 18* [178] 893.
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3R.* *July 26* [179] 239.
l. Commons Amendts., *Con.** *July 29*, 378.
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2R.* *Feb. 28* [170] 169.
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3R.* *May 28*, 1449.
c. 1R.* *May 29*, 1611.
2R.* *July 18* [178] 985.
*Rep.** *July 25* [179] 107.
*Con.** *July 30*, 738.
3R.* *Aug. 2*, 1375.
l. Commons Amendts., *Con.** *Aug. 6*, 1689.
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l. 1R.* *Feb. 18* [169] 494.
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Q. Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 14* [169] 296, 297.

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Q. Mr. Ashton; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Apr. 18* [172] 1124.

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Qs. Mr. Trevelyan, Viscount Turnour, Mr. G. Faber, Major Anstruther-Gray; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *May 6* [173] 1323, 1324.
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Qs. Mr. V. Kennedy; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Apr. 29* [173] 529, 530.
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Qs. Mr. Trevelyan, Mr. G. Faber, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 10* [175] 1082–1084.

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Q. Mr. Halpin; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 19* [171] 669.

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Q. Colonel Harrison-Broadley; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 11* [170] 1223.

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Q. Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *July 25* [179] 123.
"Wear," Plates available for Repair of, after Collision.
Qs. Captain Faber; *As.* Mr. Lambert, *June 11* [175] 1216.
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Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *July 22* [178] 1158.
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Os. Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 6* [170] 654.
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Qs. Mr. M. Macdonald; *As.* Mr. Lambert, *Aug. 26* [182] 121, 147.
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Os. Mr. Jenkins, *Mar. 7* [170] 1054.
Youths, Boys and Second-class Stokers on certain Ships.
Q. Sir B. Sheffield; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *July 8* [177] 1148, 1149.

Navy Estimates

Admiralty Office—£364,600, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1083; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1239.

Ammunition, Amount provided for, in 1901–1902 and 1907–1908.
Q. Sir B. Sheffield; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *June 27* [177] 89.

Appropriation Accounts—Referring to Committee.
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Automatic Increases.
Os. Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 5* [170] 654, 655.

Civil Pensions and Gratuities—£370,000. *Com.* Apr. 25* [173] 345; *Rep.* May 2,* 1164.

Coal Storage Item, Reason for Reduction of.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Lambert, *Mar. 27* [171] 1791.

Educational Services—£172,000, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1083; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1239.

Half-Pay, Reserved and Retired Pay—£837,900, *Com.* Apr. 25* [173] 345; *Rep.* May 2,* 1164.

Martial Law—£14,200, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1083; *Rep.* Aug. 31,* 1239.

Medical Establishments and Services—£268,700, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1083; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1239.

Method of Voting, Alteration of, proposed.
Os. Lord Ellenborough, *Apr. 17* [172] 929; Lord Tweedmouth, 933.

Miscellaneous Effective Services—£401,000, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1083; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1239.

Naval Armaments—£2,348,700, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1083; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1239.

Nucleus Crews, Alteration in Form of Vote for.
Qs. Mr. Bellairs; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Apr. 17* [172] 972, 973.

Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances—£1,302,000, *Com.* Apr. 25* [173] 345; *July 31* [179] 1084; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1239.

Presented, with Explanatory Statement, *Feb. 13* [169] 156; *Feb. 14,* 275.

Reduction effected in.
Os. Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 5* [170] 654, 655, 656; Sir C. Dilke, 689; Mr. Brace, 701; Mr. Courthope, 716; Viscount St. Aldwyn, *Aug. 7* [180] 18; Lord Eversley, 27.

Report Stage, Rule as to Course of Discussion on.
Os. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Mar. 14* [171] 259, 260; Mr. Speaker, Mr. E. Robertson, Mr. A. Lee, 260.

Royal Naval Reserves—£418,300; *Com.* July 31* [179] 1083; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1239.

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Scientific Services—£65,100, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1083; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1239.

Sea and Coast Guard Services (128,000), *Com., Mar. 5* [170] 716, 756; *Mar. 7,* 1005, 1061; *Rep., Mar. 14* [171] 257.

Shipbuilding, Repairs, and Maintenance
Contract Work—£7,646,000, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1083; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1239.
Matériel—£3,035,200, *Com.* July 31* [179] 1083; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1239.
Personnel, Dockyards, etc.—£2,549,900, *Com.. July 31* [179] 981; *Rep.* Aug. 1,* 1234.

Shipbuilding Vote, Reduction effected in.
Os. Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 5* [170] 656; Mr. A. Lee, 664.

Signature of, Explanation as to.
Os. Captain Hervey, *Mar. 7* [170] 1016.

Statement [Mr. E. Robertson], *Mar. 6* [170] 654–663.

Surplus on one Vote applied to meet Deficit on another Vote
Objection to System, etc.
Qs. Mr. Bowles; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *Mar. 14* [171] 229, 230.
Resolution [Mr. Runciman], *July 29* [179] 696; *July 30,* 920–924; Reported, *July 31,* 1132.
Treasury Minute Presented, *Mar. 22,* [171] 1264.

Victualling and Clothing—£1,996,400, *Com., June 11* [175] 1255; *Rep.* June 20* [176] 638.

Vote brought forward without adequate Notice, Objections to.
Os. Mr. Bowles, Major Anstruther-Gray, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 20* [176] 639; Sir A. Acland-Hood, Mr. J. A. Pease, 640.

Vote 8, Date of taking.
Qs. Mr. M. Mac donald, Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *May 2* [173] 1078.

Vote 9, Guns provided for under.
Q. Mr. Nield; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Mar. 23* [171] 1370.

Votes A. and I., Discussion of—Proposals as to Suspension of Eleven o'Clock Rule.
Os. Sir A. Acland-Hood, *Mar. 6* [170] 923, 924; Mr. G. Whiteley, 924; Mr. C. Hay, 924.

Wages, etc., of Officers and Seamen—£6,869,700, *Com.* Mar. 7* [170] 1096; *Rep., Mar. 14* [171] 257.

Works, Buildings and Repairs—£2,758,400, *Com., Apr. 25* [173] 294; *Rep.* May 2,* 1164.

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Os. Mr. Lambert, *Apr. 25* [173] 294, 295, 300; Mr. A. Lee, 300–303, 317; Mr. Mond, 313; Mr. Bellairs, 317.

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Q. Sir D. B. Jones; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Aug. 14* [180] 1307, 1308.

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Royal Assent, *Aug. 21* [181] 758.

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Q. Mr. Crean; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 12* [170] 1397, 1398.

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Ecclesiastical Commissioners—Return in Continuation of Return No. 71, *July 22* [178] 1083.

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Garrison, Memorial as to Removal of.
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Qs. Mr. J. Dewar; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Mar. 26* [171] 1661.

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Q. Mr. Harmood-Banner; *A.* Mr. Lough, *Aug. 1* [179] 1218, 1219.

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Q. Mr. Thorne; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 22* [178] 1173.

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Q. Mr. O'Doherty; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 13* [171] 58.

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Qs. Sir H. Vincent, Sir G. Parker; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 20* [171] 846, 847.
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Recruitment of Females for, Regulations for.
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Q. Mr. S. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 20* [169] 829.

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Q. Mr. Staveley-Hill; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Aug. 22* [181] 1160.

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Q. Mr. Carlile; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 21* [169] 1038.

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Qs. Major Anstruther-Gray, Mr. Ashley; *As.* Mr. Churchill, Mr. Speaker, *Feb. 21* [169] 1029–1031.

Qs. Major Anstruther-Gray, Sir G. Parker, Mr. Ashley; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 26* [169] 1425.

Qs. Sir W. Evans-Gordon, Mr. Moore; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 27* [170] 34.

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Os. Mr. Lyttelton, *Mar. 11* [170] 1285; Mr. Churchill, 1292; Mr. F. E. Smith, 1330; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 1370, 1372.

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Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 21* [169] 1031.

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Qs. Major Anstruther-Gray; *As.* Sir G. Parker, Lord Balcarres, Mr. T. L. Corbett; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *May 14* [174] 785, 786.

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Qs. Mr. Ashley, Sir G. Parker; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 26* [169] 1428.

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Q. Mr .Staveley-Hill; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *July 31* [179] 950.

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Q. Mr. Essex; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Mar. 12* [170] 1415.

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Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 11* [175] 1221.

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Q. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *July 17* [178] 687.

Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *July 18*, 913.

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l. 1R.* *June 11* [175] 1194.
2R.* *June 26* [176] 1258.
*Rep.** *July 9* [177] 1293.
*Com.** *July 10*, 1537.
*Rep.** *July 11* [178] 2.
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2R.* *July 23*, 1310.
Rep. *July 30* [179] 738.
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3R.* *Aug. 1*, 1184.
l. Commons Amendts., *Con.* *Aug. 1*, 1138.
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Os. Mr. Delany, *May 2* [173] 1114, 1115; Sir T. Esmonde, 1125, 1126.
Q. Mr. M'Hugh; *A.* Mr. T. W. Russell, *July 22* [178] 1184.
Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *May 27* [174] 1300.
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Os. Mr. H. Law, *May 2* [173] 1123, 1127; Mr. Runciman, 1127.
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Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *May 14* [174] 780, 781.
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Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *May 13* [174] 583.
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Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Birrell. *Mar. 12* [170] 1408.

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Q. Mr. O'Mara; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *May 30* [175] 59.

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griculture Scientific Research—Departmental Committee, Reason for Exclusion of Scotland from Terms of Reference, *Mar. 27* [171] 1820.

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3R.* *Apr. 9* [172] 73.
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Q. Mr. Clough; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 5* [175] 632, 633.

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Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Apr. 15* [172] 572.

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Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Aug. 14* [180] 1301.

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Q. Mr. T. F. Richards; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 18* [171] 468.
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Q. Mr. H. J. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 7* [175] 956.

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Qs. Dr. Cooper; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 26* [171] 1650, 1651; *Apr. 9* [172] 79.

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Q. Mr. J. F. Mason; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 4* [170] 451.

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Q. Mr. Starkey; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *July 22* [178] 1169, 1170.

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Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Apr. 12* [172] 497, 498.

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Q. Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 19* [171] 659, 660.

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Q. Mr. Brodie; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Apr. 10* [172] 202.

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Q. Mr. Watt; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *May 6* [173] 1362.

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Q. Mr. Hazelton; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *July 22* [178] 1154.

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Q. Mr. Nussey; *A.* Sir H. Fowler, *May 9* [174] 366, 367.

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2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.
*Rep.** *May 14* [174] 733.
3R.* *May 28*, 1449.
c. 1R.* *May 29*, 1610.
2R.* *June 11* [175] 1196.
*Rep.** *July 4* [177] 843.
3R.* *July 12* [178] 193.
l. Royal Assent, *July 26* [179] 237.

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Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 26* [169] 1436.
Q. Mr. Haddock; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 22* [171] 1295.
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Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 8* [170] 1099, 1100.
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Q. Mr. Bennett; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 1* [170] 1404.
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Q. Mr. Hart-Davies; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *May 14* [174] 795.
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Qs. Mr. L. Haslam; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 27* [171] 1811, 1812.
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Qs. Mr. Power, *May 2* [173] 1142; Mr. Boland, 1143; Mr. Birrell, 1148.
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Q. Mr. C. Grant; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 22* [169] 1144.
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Q. Mr. Meehan; *A.* Mr. Burns, *July 29* [179] 489.
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Qs. Mr. C. Duncan, Mr. J. Ward; *As.* Mr. Burns, *June 17* [176] 162, 163.
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Q. Mr. H. H. Marks; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Apr. 17* [172] 948.
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Qs. Mr. P. Pease; *As.* Mr. Burns, *July 23* [178] 1361.
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Q. Mr. Mackarness; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 18* [169] 555.
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Qs. Mr. V. Kennedy; *As.* Mr. Burns, *May 2* [173] 1066.
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Os. Lord R. Cecil, *Mar. 12* [170] 1457; Dr. Macnamara, 1460; Mr. J. Ward, 1461.
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Q. Mr. L. Haslam; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 20–21* [171] 837.
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Q. Mr. Muldoon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Aug. 12* [180] 788.
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Qs. Mr. P. Pease; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 21* [169] 1010; *Fel. 22*, 1144; *Mar. 19* [171] 645; *June 18* [176] 333.
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Os. Mr. J. Ward, *Mar. 12* [170] 1461, 1462.
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Q. Mr. H. Morgan; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 18* [169] 555.
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Qs. Mr. Barnard; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Aug. 19* [181] 133; *Aug. 26* [182] 119.
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Q. Mr. T. F. Richards; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Aug. 15* [180] 1604, 1605.
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Q. Mr. Herbert; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 18* [176] 301.
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Q. Mr. W. F. D. Smith; *A.* Mr. Burns, *July 2* [177] 507.
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Q. Mr. W. Abraham; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Aug. 1* [179] 1224, 1225.
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Q. Mr. O'Shee; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Aug. 5* [179] 1526.
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Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Apr. 24* [173] 20.
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Q. Mr. Meagher; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *Aug. 6* [179] 1839.
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Os. Lord Monteagle of Brandon, *July 22* [178] 1105–1111, 1123; Lord Castletown, 1111–1113; Earl of Mayo, 1113–1116; Earl of Crewe, 1116–1120, 1121; Earl of Meath, 1120; Lord Ashbourne, 1121; Lord Denman, 1122.
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Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 12* [175] 1416.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 16* [176] 10, 11.
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Os. Mr. J. Redmond, *Feb. 12* [169] 97, 98; Mr. H. Law, *Mar. 12* [170] 1484.
Q. Mr. Meagher; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 5* [170] 648.
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Q. Mr. Brooke; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 26* [176] 1359, 1360.

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Q. Mr. Brooke; *A.* Dr. Macnamara, *Mar. 12* [170] 1430, 1431.
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Qs. Mr. Alden; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 22* [171] 1295; *Apr. 24* [173] 26.

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Os. Mr. J. R. Macdonald, *July 18* [178] 953.

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Q. Mr. Haddock; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 11* [170] 1221.

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Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Aug. 22* [181] 1147.

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Q. Mr. T. F. Richards; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Mar. 5* [170] 639.

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Qs. Mr. Essex, Lord R. Cecil; *As.* Dr. Macnamara, *Mar. 12* [170] 1430.

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Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 26* [169] 1404, 1405.

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Q. Mr. L. Haslam; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 10* [175] 1060.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 24* [176] 867, 868.

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  - *Q.* Mr. Watt; *A.* Mr. T. Shaw, *May 16* [174] 1103.
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- *l.* Commons Amendts. *Con.** *July 9,* 1293.
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Qs. Mr. Seaverns, Mr. R. Duncan, Lord Balcarres; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *June 6* [175] 837–839.
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Q. Mr. R. Duncan; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *May 30* [179] 80, 81.

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Qs. Mr. Summerbell; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Mar. 7* [170] 973, 974.
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Q. Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *July 18* [178] 922.
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Q. Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Mar. 12* [170] 1424.

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3R.* *Apr. 26* [173] 373.
l. 1R.* *Apr. 29,* 461.
2R.* *May 8* [174] 197.
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l. Royal Assent, *July 4* [177] 814.

Talbot, Lord E. [Sussex, Chichester]
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Q. Mr. O'Shee; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Aug. 5* [179] 1527.

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Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *July 10* [177] 1614, 1615.
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Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Mar. 26* [171] 1668.

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Qs. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Aug. 26* [182] 144, 145; *Aug. 27,* 391, 392.
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Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Aug. 6* [179] 1815, 1816.

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Os. Mr. A. Chamberlain, *May 13* [174] 651–654, 659; Mr. McKenna, 665, 666; Mr. E. Cecil, 672, 673; Mr. Lyttelton, 691; Mr. Buxton, 721–728; Mr. C. Money, *May 14,* 813–818; Mr. Lane-Fox, 818–822; Mr. J. R. MacDonald, 824–830; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 842–845; Mr. Asquith, 852, 853; Mr. Bridgeman, 857–859; Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, 866–869; Mr. B. Law, 897–902; Mr. McKenna, 901; Mr. Runciman, 907–912; Sir G. Parker, *July 30* [179] 788, 791; Mr. A. Chamberlain, 826, 827.

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- Collection—Statistics (1905–1907)—Return Ordered, *Feb. 25* [169] 1226.
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  - *Os.* Mr. Bennett, *Mar. 26* [171] 1729–1735; Mr. C. Money, 1735–1744; Mr. Asquith, 1744–1745; Mr. Hills, 1745–1748; Mr. Hemmerde, 1748–1750; Mr. Lane-Fox, 1750–1752; Mr. Wedgwood, 1752–1757; Mr. Bridgeman, 1757–1758; Mr. Rees, 1759–1761; Mr. Hunt, 1761, 1762; Mr. Snowden, *July 9* [177] 1492–1495.
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    - *Os.* Mr. A. Chamberlain, *Apr. 22* [172] 1437, 1438; Mr. McKenna, 1458; Sir C. Dilke, 1467, 1468; Mr. E. Cecil, 1482.
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    - *Os.* Mr. C. Money, *Apr. 24* [173] 114, 115.
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    - *Q.* Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Apr. 19* [172] 1263.
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    - *Os.* Mr. Dillon, *May 1* [173] 916–918.
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    - *Q.* Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Apr. 17* [172] 942.
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      - *Os.* Mr. Asquith, *Apr. 18* [172] 1180.
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      - *Q.* Sir G. Fardell; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *June 18* [176] 326.
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      - *Os.* Mr. A. Chamberlain, Mr. Asquith, *July 2* [177] 635.
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    - *Os.* Mr. Asquith, *Apr. 18* [172] 1195–1198; Mr. A. Chamberlain, 1213; Mr. V. Cavendish, 1234; Colonel R. Williams, 1237; Mr. J. R. MacDonald, 1249; Sir C. Dilke, *Apr. 22,* 1462; Mr. H. Beach, *Apr. 24* [173] 76; Mr. V. Cavendish, 92, 95; Mr. Asquith, 95; Mr. J. F. Mason, 103; Mr. Bowles, 109, 110; Mr. H. Beach, *May 8* [174] 274, 275; Mr. Harmood-Banner, 275–277; Mr. Asquith, 277.
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Q. Mr. Higham; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *June 20* [176] 588.
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Q. Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Mar. 7* [170] 985.
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